



Closing Arguments



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speak during the third presidential debate at UNLV in Las Vegas, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

Final Debate Shifts From Policy-Focused to Personal

JULIE PACE
LISA LERER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Threatening to upend a fundamental pillar of American democracy, Donald Trump refused to say Wednesday night that he will accept the results of next month's

election if he loses to Hillary Clinton.

The Democratic nominee declared Trump's resistance "horrifying."

Trump had spent the days leading up to the third and final presidential debate warning voters that the election would be

"rigged." Asked whether he would accept the outcome if Clinton emerges victorious, he said, "I will tell you at the time. I'll keep you in suspense."

The Republican National Committee immediately disavowed Trump's statement. There is no evidence

of widespread voter fraud, and election officials across the country have denied and denounced Trump's charges.

Trump's assertions raise the prospect that millions of his supporters may not accept the results on Nov. 8 if he loses, thrusting the nation

into uncharted territory. Free and fair elections, with the vanquished peacefully stepping aside for the victor, have been the underpinning of American democracy since its founding 240 years ago.

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US general: Mosul battle could last months

ROBERT BURNS
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fight for Mosul, launched this week by Iraqi security forces supported by U.S. air power and advisers, could take months and is likely to feature periods of fierce combat, the commander of U.S. forces in the Middle

American Progress, a Washington think tank, Votel said Iraqi officials have publicly spoken of the Mosul battle lasting for weeks or months. He said he is comfortable with the Iraqis' timeframe and said it was important to credit the Islamic State with being an adaptive enemy capable of adjusting to setbacks.

Islamic State forces, they do squirt out, they try to go to other locations, they move leaders, they move the bulk of their forces, they try to relocate some of their operations." He said the U.S. and its coalition partners could respond to that in various ways, including directing airstrikes at IS fighters seek-



Iraqi army soldiers raise their weapons in celebration on the outskirts of Qayyarah, Iraq, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. A senior Iraqi general on Wednesday called on Iraqis fighting for the Islamic State group in Mosul to surrender as a wide-scale operation to retake the militant-held city entered its third day.

(AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

East said Wednesday. Army Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command, said the duration of the battle will be determined in part by how the Islamic State group reacts and adjusts to the unfolding Iraqi offensive. He noted that the extremist group has had more than two years to prepare its defenses in and around the sprawling Tigris River city. The militants thus far have put up significant resistance in villages surrounding Mosul. They have sent trucks loaded with explosives careening toward the front lines and fired mortars to slow the Iraqi forces' advance since Monday. Iraqi soldiers are in the lead combat role; the U.S. is supporting them with a variety of aircraft, artillery and advisers but the Pentagon has said repeatedly that none of the Americans are on the front lines. Speaking at the Center for

"I'll give you an example," he said. "The operation we did to Manbij, in northern Syria, took about 71 days to complete, from start to finish." That was completed in August. Votel noted that another key objective in Syria— Raqqa, the self-proclaimed IS capital — is about three times the size of Manbij. "Mosul is about three times the size of Raqqa," he said, suggesting that Mosul could be orders of magnitude harder than either Manbij or Raqqa. There had been speculation that offensives to retake Raqqa and Mosul might happen simultaneously. Ask about that, Votel repeatedly stressed the importance of what he called "simultaneous application of pressure." "I think it's extraordinarily important and we are certainly attempting to do that," Votel said. "I think what we've seen is when we apply pressure on the

ing to move from Mosul to Raqqa. "I think it's extraordinarily important to apply pressure in many areas, Iraq and Syria," he added. Separately, another U.S. general said Islamic State fighters are likely to put up a stiff defense of Mosul but eventually lose their grip and morph into an insurgency. Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, commander of U.S. and coalition land forces in Iraq, said this transition from conventional combat to counter-insurgency is deemed so predictable that the U.S. training regimen for Iraqi security forces is already being adjusted to prepare them for insurgent threats. Volesky, speaking to reporters at the Pentagon via video link from his headquarters in Baghdad, also disclosed that U.S. Army Apache helicopters have entered the battle for Mosul. □

US warns 'overwhelming' response to any use of nukes by North Korea

M. PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States warned Wednesday that any attack on American allies or use of nuclear weapons by North Korea would be met with an "overwhelming" U.S. response as it sought to reassure close ally South Korea that the U.S. has its back.

The statement by Defense Secretary Ash Carter came as top U.S. and South Korean diplomats and military officials met, weeks after North Korea's most powerful nuclear test explosion to date, and days after its failed test launch of a ballistic missile — one of more than 20 such tests this year alone.

The flurry of activity has deepened concern over the North's progress toward having a nuclear warhead it can mount on a long-range missile.

The two sides discussed steps to strengthen the so-called "extended deterrence" provided by U.S. nuclear forces in defending South Korea and agreed to begin a high-level dialogue about it. Seoul is looking to allay calls from conservatives at home who want South Korea to develop its own nuclear arsenal.

"The U.S. commitment to the defense of South Korea is unwavering. This includes our commitment to provide extended deterrence, guaranteed by the full spectrum of U.S. defense capabilities," Carter said in opening remarks.

"Make no mistake, any attack on America or our allies will not only be defeated, but any use of nuclear weapons will be met with an overwhelming and effective response," he said. South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se said the threat posed by North Korea is "more grave than ever" and that the North is "nearing the final stage of nuclear weaponization."

"North Korea's threat is no longer confined to the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia. It's now a direct threat to the main-

land U.S.," he said after the talks. "The next few years will be the tipping point." He said defense officials on Thursday would discuss the possibility of deploying U.S. "strategic assets" to the South — an apparent reference to permanently basing nuclear-capable planes or vessels there. Secretary of State John Kerry reiterated the U.S. will deploy "as soon as possible" a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, a missile defense system intended to protect South Korea and the nearly 30,000 U.S. forces based there.

The plans for THAAD have angered China and Russia, which see it as a threat to their own defense.

Kerry called for every country to rigorously enforce U.N. sanctions on North Korea, which are intended — but have failed — to prevent its development of weapons of mass destruction. He said the international community needs to cooperate so the North "pays a price for its dangerous actions."

The U.S. and China, which is the North's traditional ally and main trading partner, are currently negotiating at the U.N. Security Council on tightening sanctions in response to the Sept. 9 nuclear test. The U.S., South Korea and Japan are considering additional sanctions of their own.

Kerry said the U.S. wants to close a loophole in the current U.N. sanctions allowing coal exports from North Korea to support the livelihood of its people. Kerry said that provision was being abused and the "greatest amount" of coal and revenue has just passed between China and North Korea.

The U.S. hopes that tighter sanctions can force impoverished North Korea to return to long-stalled negotiations on providing aid in exchange for denuclearization, but there appears to be little prospect of their resumption because of Pyongyang's determination to have nuclear weapons. □

Trump, Clinton debate shifts from policy to personal

Continued from front

Wednesday's contest quickly shifted from a calm, policy-focused faceoff into a bitter and deeply personal confrontation. Trump called Clinton a "nasty woman," while the Democrat panned him as "unfit" to be commander in chief. Clinton, who began the debate with a lead in nearly all battleground states, forcefully accused Trump of favoring Russia's leader over American military and intelligence experts after the Republican nominee pointedly refused to accept the U.S. government's assertion that Moscow has sought to meddle in the U.S. election. She charged that Russian President Vladimir Putin was backing Trump because "he'd rather have a puppet as president of the United States." Trump denied any relationship with Putin and said he would condemn any foreign interference in the election. But he notably declined to back the intelligence community's assessment that Russia was involved in the hacking of Democratic organizations. The Clinton campaign has said the FBI also is investigating Russia's involvement in the hacking of a top adviser's emails. The 90-minute contest in Las Vegas came just under three weeks before Election Day and with early voting underway in more than 30 states. Trump has struggled to expand his support beyond his most loyal backers and must reshape the race in its closing days if he hopes to defeat Clinton. The candidates clashed repeatedly over their drastically different visions for the nation's future. Trump backed Supreme Court justices who would overturn the landmark *Roe vs. Wade* ruling, while Clinton vowed to appoint justices that would uphold the decision legalizing abortion, saying, "We have come too far to have that turned back now." The businessman entered the final debate facing a string of sexual assault



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, left and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump listen to a question from Moderator Chris Wallace of FOX News during the third presidential debate at UNLV in Las Vegas, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016.

(Joe Raedle/Pool via AP)

accusations from women who came forward after he denied in the previous contest that he had kissed or groped women without their consent. That Trump denial followed the release of a video of in which he's heard bragging about exactly that. Trump denied the accu-

sations anew Wednesday night, saying the women coming forward "either want fame or her campaign did it." He falsely said the women's allegations had been debunked. Clinton said Trump "thinks belittling women makes him bigger. He goes after their dignity, their self-

worth." She avoided answering a question about her husband's infidelities. Trump pressed Clinton on immigration, accusing her of wanting an "open borders" policy, a characterization she vigorously disputes. The Republican, who has called for building a wall the length of the

U.S.-Mexico border, said that under a Clinton presidency, "People are going to pour into our country." Clashing on trade, Trump said Clinton had misrepresented her position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, noting that she had originally called it the "gold standard" of trade agreements. Clinton shot back that once the deal was finished, it didn't meet her standards. "I'm against it now. I'll be against after the election. I'll be against it when I'm president," she said. Both were asked if they would consider tax increases or benefit cuts to support Social Security and Medicare programs. Trump said he would cut taxes and repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, but he did not detail any plans for Social Security or other entitlement programs. Clinton said she would put more money in the Social Security trust fund through increasing taxes on the wealthy and other methods and promised not to cut benefits. □

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Democrats not willing to spend on Florida race, aiding Rubio

JULIE BYKOWICZ
ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Republican Sen. Marco Rubio is getting help from an unlikely quarter as he campaigns for re-election: the Democratic Party.

The party's Senate committee this week abandoned Rubio's Democratic rival, Rep. Patrick Murphy, yanking advertising off the expensive airwaves of the Sunshine State and sending the money to competitive races in smaller states where fundraising dollars go farther. The decision leaves Murphy, who's raised only about one-third as much as Rubio in recent months, largely on his own. And it has prompted a round of second-guessing from Democrats who argue that Rubio is beatable, and that the party should not be helping him win a second term that could provide a perch for another presidential bid.

"When Rubio decides to run for president again in four years, there's going to be a whole lot of regret



Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., left, and Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Fla., shake hands before their debate at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando, Fla.

(AP Photo/John Raoux)

about these decisions being made now," said Florida Democratic strategist Steve Schale.

The decampment by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee comes at a strange time, just as things are looking up

for Murphy.

Senate polls in the state have tightened in recent weeks, and there are signs that Florida Republicans aren't as enthusiastic to vote this year with Donald Trump as their presidential nominee. For example,

Democrats are doing better than expected in mail-in ballots. Murphy on Wednesday won the endorsement of The Miami Herald, which in the past has backed Rubio, and released a new ad with President Barack Obama speaking Spanish

to urge Hispanics to the polls. With Trump dragging down Republican candidates across the country, some here see a potential path to victory not just for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, but also for Murphy, a second-term congressman with low name recognition.

"Senator Rubio is a fatally flawed candidate and apparently some of the major newspapers in Florida felt the same way," said Jim Manley, a Democratic consultant in Washington and former aide to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. "I only hope the DSCC is going to reconsider and start pouring money into the race, because he's beatable."

Reid said in an interview before Wednesday's presidential debate in Las Vegas that the DSCC doesn't have the money it takes to keep up ad buys in Florida, but he said, "we'll just have to wait and see what happens in the next week or so and find out how heavily we're going to be involved there at the end." □

Video: Dem activist bragged about disrupting Trump rallies

JULIE BYKOWICZ
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Conservative activist James O'Keefe has released secretly recorded, selectively edited video footage that includes a Democratic activist bragging about deploying troublemakers at rallies held by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. After O'Keefe began releasing videos this week, two Democratic operatives stopped working on the presidential race and both the Democratic Party and

Hillary Clinton's campaign denounced the tactics described in the footage. Both said the activities described never took place. O'Keefe's group, Project Veritas, promised to release additional videos ahead of the Nov. 8 election.

The central character in the recordings is Scott Foval, a Wisconsin-based liberal operative. He is portrayed in the footage as boasting about his connections to the party and the Clinton campaign, and claiming to have arranged for people,

including some who are mentally ill, to incite violence at Trump rallies.

"You can message to draw them out, and draw them out to punch you," Foval is shown on a video as saying.

Foval also appears to say hired agitators should have their medical and legal bills covered. As with much of the video's content, it's impossible to say with certainty what Foval meant, because the videos are edited in a way so that it's not clear what led to the

comment.

In a separate video, Foval muses to an undercover O'Keefe associate about how it would be easier to get away with voter fraud if out-of-state residents drive to the polls in the targeted states in cars rather than being bused in by an organizer. "So you can't prove that it's en masse, so it doesn't tip people off," he says. There's no evidence presented in the video that anything Foval discusses as a theoretical has ever occurred.

Foval told The Associated Press in an email that O'Keefe's associates had set him up.

"This scheme to cast legitimate organizing activities as a sinister plot is nothing but a ruse," he said, adding, "O'Keefe's crew of impostors continued to walk down a path of deception and manipulation."

O'Keefe and Project Veritas have a long track record of targeting Democratic groups, often by hiding their identities and using hidden cameras. □

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Gas explosion rocks Portland shopping district, injuring 8

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A powerful natural gas explosion rocked a busy Portland, Oregon, shopping district Wednesday, injuring eight people and igniting a fire that sent a huge plume of smoke over the heart of the city.

Three firefighters, two police officers and three civilians were hurt, and one of the firefighters was still in surgery late Wednesday for a broken leg, fire Chief Mike Myers said at a news conference. None of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening. A building that housed a bagel shop and a beauty salon in the popular NW 23rd Street shopping district was reduced to rubble, and its smoldering roof was splayed across the road. The windows of a nearby building were blown out and debris was everywhere. Firefighters swarmed the scene and dumped water from ladder trucks onto the smoking wreckage.

NW Natural released a timeline saying the explosion occurred at 9:38 a.m.

— a time when many businesses were still closed.

City officials said a catastrophe was averted by speedy work from firefighters and police who responded to a reported gas leak and cleared the area of people before the blast. "There are a lot of people alive" who might not be "but for the excellent work by our first responders," Mayor Charlie Hales said. One young fire lieutenant in particular — the same one with the badly broken leg — made several critical decisions that likely saved lives, Myers said.

Fire Lt. Peter St. John positioned fire trucks and hoses in such a way that they were out of the blast zone and ran into the building to pull fire alarms when firefighters realized not everyone had evacuated as ordered, Myers said, adding that the man was new to the fire department.

"That man saved the lives of a lot of people today and a lot of firefighters," the chief said. Firefighters also donned their air packs and masks before the blast, an unusual move for a routine



Firefighters battle a blaze after a gas explosion in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. A powerful natural gas explosion that neighbors said felt like an earthquake rocked the busy injuring at least 8. One building in the popular shopping district was reduced to rubble and the exterior of one side of another building had been ripped off, its windows blown out.

(AP Photo/Don Ryan)

gas leak call, but one that also prevented serious facial injuries, he said.

Portland's NW 23rd Street — nicknamed "Trendy Third" — is packed with boutiques, bars and restaurants. Many are on street level with pricey apartments on the upper levels and a day care facility in

the vicinity.

The utility said it got a call at 8:55 a.m. saying a construction crew had hit a gas line. Authorities and utility workers responded in 15 minutes and evacuated the building, NW Natural said in its statement.

People in the neighborhood reported smelling gas

as they were evacuated and later felt the explosion. The utility hasn't determined what caused the gas to ignite, but NW Natural CEO David Anderson said it was a rare event that required a certain amount of ambient gas, an enclosed space and an ignition source. □

Santa Ana winds bring Southern California heat, fire danger

JOHN ANTCAK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Santa Ana winds gusted out of the mountains of Southern California on Wednesday, driving up temperatures and fanning several small brush fires that erupted in the drought-stricken region. Firefighters aided by a squadron of water-dropping aircraft got their first test of the Santa Ana season with an overnight brush fire in hills above the Porter Ranch area of Los Angeles and held it in check at less

than 30 acres, then battled similar fires above Granada Hills and Lake View Terrace. "It's getting very hot, very dry," Los Angeles County fire Capt. Daniel Curry told reporters. "We've got all the elements."

Temperatures hit the 80s and 90s in many areas, and the National Weather Service said Thursday would be even hotter, with some locations expected to reach 100 degrees.

Near downtown Los Angeles, conditions at Dodger Stadium were more like Au-

gust than mid-October just hours before Game 4 of the National League Championship Series.

Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, who wasn't scheduled to pitch Wednesday night, did sprints on the warning track in shorts and a sleeveless top under a cloudless, 89-degree sky. The Chicago Cubs' Jon Lester, who will pitch Game 5, said the heat wouldn't change the way he pitches.

"It's nice and not nice at the same time to pitch in

this weather this time of year," he said. "You think about playoff baseball, you think about it being cold and having to bundle up.

But it's nice coming to Southern California and playing in some warm weather as well."

The dangerous Santa Anas, typical of fall in Southern California, triggered red flag warnings for fire danger from coastal counties northwest of Los Angeles down to the Mexico border. One gust was mea-

sured at 67 mph in Santa Barbara County.

The warm, dry winds, which blow out of the northeast toward the coast, arrived just days after an autumn storm brought rain to much of California and dusted Sierra Nevada peaks with snow.

Much of the rest of the state, including the San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Valley, also had above-normal temperatures, although no red flag warnings were posted in those regions. □



Mayor Bill de Blasio, center, reacts during a press conference in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, in New York. Mayor de Blasio castigated a police sergeant Wednesday for fatally shooting a mentally ill, 66-year-old woman brandishing a baseball bat, saying her "tragic" and "unacceptable" death resulted from failure to follow basic policies.

(AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

NYC mayor:

Police shooting of mentally ill woman 'unacceptable'

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City's mayor castigated a police sergeant Wednesday for fatally shooting a mentally ill, 66-year-old woman brandishing a baseball bat, saying her "tragic" and "unacceptable" death resulted from failure to follow basic policies.

"Our officers are supposed to use deadly force only when faced with a dire situation. It's very hard to see that standard was met," a somber Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "Something went horribly wrong here."

The unusual rebuke came less than 24 hours after Deborah Danner, who is black, was shot to death in her Bronx apartment. And it

came even as investigators were still looking into why the white officer didn't call for an emergency services unit and didn't use his department-issued stun gun. "Deborah Danner should be alive right now, period," the mayor said. "If the protocols had been followed, she would be alive. It's as simple as that."

Wednesday night, a group of more than two dozen protesters marched from Danner's apartment to a local police precinct chanting "no justice, no peace" and "send those killer cops to jail."

Earlier, New York police Commissioner James O'Neill said his department "failed" by not using means other than deadly force. "That's not how it's sup-

posed to go," O'Neill said. "It's not how we train; our first obligation is to preserve life, not to take a life when it can be avoided."

The head of the police union representing sergeants, Ed Mullins, said the shooting was self-defense and bemoaned what he characterized as a politically motivated rush to judgment.

"We could be sitting here talking about how a 66-year-old ... fractured his skull," Mullins said.

Police were responding to a 911 call about an emotionally disturbed person around 6:15 p.m. Tuesday when an eight-year veteran of the force, Sgt. Hugh Barry, encountered Danner in her seventh-floor apartment, police said. □

Attorney general leads criminal probe against Wells Fargo bank

DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California's attorney general is conducting a criminal investigation into whether employees at San Francisco-based Wells Fargo bank stole customers' identities in the sales practices scandal that rocked the bank and cost its CEO his job, documents released Wednesday show.

A search warrant and supporting affidavit released by the state Department of Justice show that agents sought evidence related to allegations that bank employees created up to 2 million bank and credit card accounts without customers' approval in order to meet sales goals.

The warrant, first reported by the Los Angeles Times, was served Oct. 5. Copies obtained by The Associated Press under a public records request show Attorney General Kamala Harris' office sought the names of customers who had accounts opened without their permission, the names of employees who opened the accounts and their managers, and fees associated with the improperly opened accounts.

"We can't comment on an ongoing investigation," Kristin Ford, a spokeswoman for the attorney general, said in an email.

Wells Fargo spokesman Mark Folk said in an email that the bank is cooperating in providing the requested information.

Justice Department Special Agent Supervisor James Hirt said in a 14-page affidavit seeking the search warrant that "there is probable cause to believe that employees of Wells Fargo Bank unlawfully accessed the bank's computer system to obtain the PII (personal identifying information) of customers."

Employees then used the illegally obtained information "to commit false impersonation and identity theft by opening unauthorized accounts, credit cards and various other products that resulted in the accumulation of fees and charges for Wells Fargo," Hirt said.

One Los Angeles customer was surprised to learn last year that a Wells Fargo employee had opened a \$10,000 line of credit linked to his accounts without his authorization, according to the affidavit.

Another was shocked when she and her husband began receiving notices from the bank on payments they allegedly owed on three life insurance policies they had never purchased.

Bank employees repeatedly opened and closed her bank accounts, causing her to bounce checks and pay bank fees.

A third found her money transferred from her checking account to a savings account without her permission. The 74-year-old woman also reported receiving multiple bank credit-debit cards and being signed up for online banking without permission.

The bank previously said it has fired about 5,300 employees for improperly engaging in fraudulent account sales. □

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US Financial Front:

American economy grows a bit faster in September, Fed says

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. economic growth picked up a bit as summer ended and fall began, supported by modest hiring, an uptick in consumer spending, and steady homebuilding, according to the Federal Reserve. The Fed's "Beige Book" survey of economic conditions in its 12 regional bank districts, released Wednesday, found that growth was modest or moderate in eight districts, slight in three, and flat in the New York district. That's an improvement from its September survey, which found that growth weakened in two districts and was unchanged in two.

The mild improvement could encourage Fed policymakers to lift short-term interest rates by their December meeting.

Hiring was steady across most of the country, though there were layoffs at factories in the New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Richmond districts. Steady job gains lifted wages in most districts.

The Beige Book's broad picture of a modestly improving economy is consistent with most economists' estimates that growth will quicken in the July-September quarter. The economy will likely grow at a roughly 2 percent to 2.5 percent annual pace, most analysts forecast. That would be up from a tepid 1.1 percent pace in the first half of the year.

The report is based on discussions with business leaders in each region and will be considered at the Fed's next meeting Nov. 1-2. Wednesday's Beige Book covered the period from late August through Oct. 7. Fed policymakers at the November meeting will

weigh whether to raise the short-term interest rate that they control.

Most analysts expect the Fed to stand pat next month and wait to make any moves after the elections. If the economy keeps growing, economists expect the Fed to hike in December. The rate was pinned at nearly zero for seven years during the Great Recession and slow recovery. The Fed increased it to between one-quarter and one-half a percentage point last December. The survey found that employers reported offering higher pay for many skilled workers in industries such as construction, manufacturing, health care and information technology.

But similar pressures also appeared in lower-skilled industries: Retailers and tourism operators in New England were forced to raise wages to attract workers, the Boston district said. The Richmond district said businesses were struggling to find construction workers, hotel and restaurant staff, farm hands, en-



A technician applies the logo stencil to the side of a Titan truck on the assembly line at the Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant in Canton, Miss. On Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016, the Federal Reserve released its latest "Beige Book" survey of economic conditions. The Beige Book is based on anecdotal reports from businesses and will be considered along with other data when Fed policymakers meet next month.

(AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

gineers and managers.

Consumer spending was healthy overall. Sales of luxury goods were strong in the San Francisco district. Attendance at Broadway

theater shows in the New York district rose in September and was higher than a year ago. Auto sales were flat or declined in about half the Fed's regions, in-

cluding New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Atlanta and Kansas City. Yet they grew in other districts, including St. Louis and San Francisco. □

US home construction fell 9 percent in September

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Homebuilders pulled back on construction for a second straight month in September, with a plunge in apartments offsetting gains in single-family homes. Building activity was weak in all parts of the country except the Midwest.

Construction tumbled 9 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.05 million units, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. It was the slowest pace in 18 months. Construction had

fallen 5.6 percent in August. The weakness last month reflected a 38 percent drop in construction of apartments, which overshadowed an 8.1 percent rise in single-family construction. Despite the two months of declines, home construction has been one of the bright spots in the economy this year. Builders have been scrambling to keep up with rising demand amid continued strong job gains and low mortgage rates.

The September performance was weaker than expected. Analysts had

been forecasting a rebound. But they noted that the smaller apartment segment of construction is often volatile from month to month.

"Given the volatility of the multifamily sector, there is not enough in this report to suggest the steady uptrend in housing starts is changing yet," economists at Contingent Macro Research said in a research note.

Applications for building permits, a good sign of future activity, posted an increase of 6.3 percent in September.

It was the biggest one-

month gain since last November, pushing activity to an annual rate of 1.22 million units.

By region of the country, construction starts rose 6.6 percent in the Midwest, the only region showing a gain. Construction fell 31.5 percent in the Northwest, 15.6 percent in the South and 4.4 percent in the West.

A survey of builder sentiment on Tuesday showed that builders' confidence about the future eased back a bit this month after surging to the highest level in nearly a year in September. □

Leaders agree to create 'road map' for Ukraine peace

**GEIR MOULSON
FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press**

BERLIN (AP) — The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France agreed Wednesday on a 'road map' aimed at reviving the stalled peace process in eastern Ukraine, though details of the plan still need to be worked out by the countries' foreign ministers over the coming month.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel had invited Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia, Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine and Francois Hollande of France to Berlin for the first four-way talks in over a year, insisting that while major progress was unlikely it was important for top-tier negotiations to continue.

"I'm convinced it was right to reopen the channel of talks at this level again," Merkel said after the meeting. She conceded that the four "didn't achieve miracles" but maintained the talks were necessary "in order not to lose momentum."

Also discussed was the creation of so-called disengagement areas to separate the warring parties, as well as measures to improve the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine, Merkel said.

Ukraine's president said an agreement had been reached that the road map should be adopted

the conflict, in which more than 9,600 people have been killed. Poroshenko was also quot-

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said in May that it would consider sending a



German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomes the President of Russia Vladimir Putin for a summit with the leaders of Russia, Ukraine and France at the chancellery in Berlin, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016.

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

by the end of November. Poroshenko was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying it would include all security issues, including restoration of Ukraine's control of its entire border with Russia.

The road map is part of an effort to implement the so-called Minsk Agreement of February 2015 on ending

ed as saying that an agreement was reached on the deployment of an armed police mission in the areas held by pro-Russian separatists.

But Merkel told reporters that such a step would first require Ukraine to pass laws for local elections in the disputed territory, something Kiev hasn't yet done.

mission to help conduct elections in the separatist east.

The 2015 Minsk agreement brokered by France and Germany has helped end large-scale battles between Ukrainian troops and separatists, but clashes have continued and efforts to reach a political settlement have stalled. □

EU officials: 314 held in raids on organized crime

**MIKE CORDER
Associated Press**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Police and other law enforcement organizations around the world cooperated in a massive week-long operation targeting organized crime that led to 314 arrests, the seizure or 2.4 tons of cocaine and interception of hundreds of migrants, European Union police agency Europol announced Wednesday. Law enforcement teams in 52 countries, supported by organizations including Interpol and EU border agency Frontex, took part in the series of interlinked raids and investigations that also focused on cybercrime and airline ticket fraud. "The results are pretty impressive, I think, in terms of the number of arrests," Europol Director Rob Wainwright told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I'm especially happy with the impact on trafficking human beings and the number of potential victims that we identified."

Europol said the operation intercepted 745 migrants and identified 529 victims of human trafficking.

Wainwright said that the multi-agency operation involving nations around the world is an effective way of tackling modern organized crime networks.

"Crime is becoming more cross-border and criminal networks are becoming more agile at operating in different criminal markets simultaneously," he said.

Another focus was airline fraud and police detained 193 people suspected of traveling using tickets bought with stolen or fake credit cards.

Such fraud costs the aviation industry an estimated \$1 billion a year, Europol said. Wainwright said that there are vital security implications, too.

"We cannot allow anyone, in particular serious criminals and terrorists, to travel around the world anonymously and to endanger others," he said in a statement. □

Afghan and Taliban officials hold new talks in Qatar

**KATHY GANNON
JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press**

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Taliban officials and the Afghan government have held new secret talks in Qatar aimed at restarting peace negotiations to end the country's long war, three officials say, though questions remain over which faction of the insurgency is doing the talking. Talks between the U.S.-backed government in Kabul and the militants fell apart in July 2015 after Afghan officials announced the death years earlier of the insurgency's longtime leader, the Taliban's one-eyed founder Mullah Mohammed Omar. In the time

since, a leadership struggle within its ranks broke into the open and Omar's successor was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Pakistan. Now, the Taliban itself is denying the new talks while its fighters continue to battle government forces, suggesting another break within the insurgency. How much power that splinter group wields may prove to be the crucial question in how far this new effort goes.

The Guardian newspaper of Britain first reported on the talks Tuesday, saying the first happened in September and second this month in Doha, the capital of Qatar. The small, natural-gas-rich country on the Ara-

bian Peninsula hosts a Taliban political office, whose earlier insistence to fly the white flag of Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and use the term the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" derailed earlier peace talks in 2013. A senior Pakistani intelligence official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity as he wasn't authorized to release the information, said he was aware of recent meetings in Doha between "mid-level Taliban and Afghan officials." He said a U.S. official also attended the meetings, though he did not know specifics of what was discussed as Pakistan did not take part.

"We wish them a success in

bringing peace in Afghanistan as peace in our neighbor is good for all," the official said. Pakistan long has been viewed with suspicion in neighboring Afghanistan over its intelligence services' long relationship with the Taliban.

An Afghan government official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity as the talks were supposed to remain secret, also confirmed the meetings took place, without elaborating. Mohammad Haroon Chakhansuri, a spokesman for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, said in a statement that "despite the continued fighting, we pursue different channels for peace talks." □

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Syrian forces prepare to open corridors out of Aleppo

PHILIP ISSA
SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Hundreds of residents left a formerly rebel-controlled suburb of the Syrian capital of Damascus Wednesday, as government and Russian forces prepared to open corridors out of the contested city of Aleppo in the hopes of facilitating an exodus from its rebel-held quarters. Aleppo's besieged eastern quarters experienced relative peace for the second consecutive day in the run-up to the hoped-for evacuation Thursday, after weeks of bombardment left the area in ruins. Russia's military has promised two corridors will be opened for militants to flee to the neighboring rebel-held province of Idlib, between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., while other corridors will allow civilians to move to government-held areas. The government's overture to rebels and civilians trapped in Aleppo's east follows a pattern of evacuations around the country that the U.N. has likened to



Anti-Syrian government fighters hug each others as they prepare to leave the government-besieged Damascus suburb of Moadamiyeh, Syria, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2016. A Syrian negotiator says 38 buses carrying nearly 2,000 people, including 700 gunmen, have been evacuated from a government-besieged Damascus suburb following a deal to empty it of rebels.

(AP Photo)

"forced displacement." On Wednesday, some 2,000 residents of the once autonomous Moadamiyeh suburb of Damascus were carried by government buses to Idlib as part of an arrangement to restore

government control after three years of siege at the hands of the military. Hassan Ghandour, a former Moadamiyeh resident who liaised between the suburb and besieging forces, said Wednesday the evacuees

included 700 gunmen. He said the government is to release all detainees from the suburb in exchange for the evacuation. Several activists also left with the convoy. Wassim al-Ahmad told The Asso-

ciated Press it would be "impossible" to live again under government authority, saying he didn't trust official promises for amnesty. Some of those remaining in Moadamiyeh struck a defiant tone.

"I'm not going to settle anything with the government," said local resident Mahmoud, who declined to give his family name out of safety concerns.

"I'm going to stay in my home."

"I've spent five years of my life besieged here. I've been through war, siege, starvation ... bombardment, and poison gas — I've survived with all this so I can stay here."

The suburb and two other areas around the capital were gassed with sarin poison in 2013, according to a U.N. investigation.

A Human Rights Watch report concluded the government was the most likely culprit.

Some 28,000 people remain in Moadamiyeh, down from a pre-war population of 105,000, according to the government. □

Suspected IS bomber killed in raid in Turkey, official says

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish police on Wednesday fatally shot a suspected Islamic State group militant who was believed to be planning a suicide bomb attack in the capital. The man was killed in a raid on a ninth-floor apartment on the outskirts of Ankara after he ignored warnings to surrender and opened fire on police, Ankara Gov. Ercan Topaca said. The state-run Anadolu

Agency quoted Topaca as saying the man was believed to be planning a suicide attack in the city — either targeting large gatherings or to coincide with two national ceremonies in the coming weeks.

Topaca said police seized explosive materials from the apartment.

The Ankara governor's office named the suspect as Ahmet Balik, a 24-year-old Turkish citizen born in the

southern city of Adana, in a written press statement. Turkey has been rocked by a series of deadly suicide bombings over the past 18 months that were carried out by IS or Kurdish militants. Officials banned demonstrations or large gatherings in Ankara until the end of November citing intelligence over possible attacks.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu told reporters that the

man was spotted scouting Turkey's old parliament building as well as the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk — the founder of the Turkish republic — where ceremonies are scheduled to take place. The governor's office provided three pictures of the man in these venues in its statement.

"The Daesh militant was rendered ineffective following very important

tracking and intelligence work," Soylu said, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

"These operations are continuing." Separately, a woman and her child were wounded in a mortar attack by Kurdish militants Wednesday afternoon, according to a statement by the governor's office of Osmaniye province in southern Turkey. Four mortars were fired. □

Philippine police van rams protesters in front of US Embassy

BULLIT MARQUEZ
BOGIE CALUPITAN

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— A Philippine police van rammed into protesters, leaving several bloodied, as an anti-U.S. rally turned violent Wednesday at the American Embassy in Manila.

The van's driver, police officer Franklin Kho, told reporters he did not deliberately hit the protesters but was trying to drive away from them because they were hitting the vehicle with wooden clubs and he feared they would commandeer it and use it to attack other policemen. "They were already trying to seize the vehicle," Kho told reporters.

Associated Press TV footage showed the van repeatedly ramming the protesters as it drove wildly back and forth after activists surrounded and started hitting it with the wooden batons they seized from police.

In front of horrified crowds, the van suddenly charged backward then sprinted forward twice over a space of about 20 meters (60 feet), barreling through the scattered protesters and hurtling some to the side like bowling pins. A few were run over but somehow managed to stand. Some screamed in surprise, others hurled stones at the

van and yelled invectives. A speaker called the police "puppies of imperialists" on a loudspeaker. At least three student ac-

U.S." More than two dozen policemen were injured, police officials said, adding that police observed

rowdy protesters with water to push them back, but they took hold of the water hose and confronted the outnumbered police with

lowed crowd-control procedures. Investigators will also evaluate criminal and civil liabilities of the protesters and their leader for an alleged illegal mass assembly.

A left-wing legal group, the National Union of People's Lawyers, condemned the police violence and said it would help the injured and detained protesters file criminal complaints against the police for violating their constitutional rights to free assembly.

The protesters, consisting of students, workers and tribespeople, were demanding an end to the presence of visiting U.S. troops in the Philippines and to support a call by President Rodrigo Duterte for a foreign policy not dependent on the U.S., the country's longtime treaty ally. The activists came from the largest left-wing umbrella group, Bayan (Nation), which has organized regular anti-U.S. protests in front of the embassy for decades, most of which are peaceful.

Duterte was on a state visit to China, where he is seeking to repair relations strained under his predecessor over territorial conflicts in the South China Sea. He is also seeking to expand trade and investments and financing for badly needed infrastructure projects. □



Protesters hit a Philippine National Police van after it rammed into protesters outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. The police van rammed into protesters, leaving several bloodied, as an anti-U.S. rally turned violent Wednesday at the embassy.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

tivists were taken to a hospital after they were run over by the van, protest leader Renato Reyes said. "There was absolutely no justification for it," Reyes said of the violent police dispersal of about 1,000 protesters. "Even as the president vowed an independent foreign policy, Philippine police forces still act as running dogs of the

"maximum tolerance" but rowdy protesters kept assaulting the law enforcers. Police lobbed tear gas and arrested at least 29 protesters who broke through a line of riot police and hurled red paint at the officers and a U.S. government seal at the start of the rally at the seaside embassy compound.

A firetruck doused the

rocks and red paint. After breaking through the police corridor, they scribbled "U.S. troops out now" and other slogans at the embassy's tall fence with red paint.

The national police said in a statement that the violent dispersal was "unfortunate" and an investigation would try to determine if the riot policemen fol-

Super typhoon slams into northeastern Philippines

BULLIT MARQUEZ
Associated Press

BINALONAN, Philippines

(AP) — Super Typhoon Haima slammed into the northeastern Philippine coast late Wednesday with ferocious winds and rain that rekindled fears and memories from the catastrophe wrought by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Haima, which has sustained winds of 225 kilometers (140 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 315 kph (195 mph), made landfall at Penablanca town in Cagayan province shortly before midnight, weather officials said. Many villages lost

power and intense winds tore tin roofs off houses.

"We can't go out because the wind is so intense, trees are being forced down," Councilor Elisa Arugay told DZMM radio from Camasi village in Penablanca.

Officials were concerned because the powerful typhoon struck at night and is expected to hit towns and cities amid power outages. After Cagayan, Haima is forecast to blow across the mountainous province of Apayao and then lash Ilocos Norte province before exiting into the South China Sea Thursday morning. The government's weath-

er agency raised the the storm warning to the highest level in six northern provinces, which meant that powerful winds could inflict "very heavy to widespread damage" and whip up storm surges of up to five meters (16 feet), enough to engulf shanties in many rural communities.

"We are possibly dealing with a typhoon that is even stronger than Typhoon Yolanda," said Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, referring to the local name for Haiyan. "We must, therefore, brace ourselves for the possible effects of a typhoon of this

magnitude."

Many of the provinces are still recovering from powerful Typhoon Sarika, which left at least two people dead and displaced tens of thousands of villagers last weekend. The region was spared from a major disaster due in part to the storm's speed, officials said. In Beijing, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte urged people in the typhoon's path to heed orders by disaster agencies, including abandoning coastal communities prone to storm surges. Duterte is on a state visit to China and is to fly home Friday.

"We only pray that we be spared destruction such as in the previous past which brought agony and suffering to our people, but we are ready," Duterte said at a news conference.

A massive evacuation was underway in the northern provinces, especially in landslide-prone towns which often become isolated due to toppled trees and mudslides. Thousands of villagers, helped by police and army troops, clambered on trucks with their children and bags of clothes, sleeping mats and cooking pots to be taken to emergency shelters. □



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Brazil impeachment leader arrested in corruption probe

MAURICIO SAVARESE
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The powerful former speaker of Brazil's lower house who spearheaded the ouster of President Dilma Rousseff was arrested Wednesday as part of a sprawling graft probe involving state oil giant Petrobras.

Federal deputy Eduardo Cunha, who until recently was a key ally of new President Michel Temer, is accused of corruption, money laundering and tax evasion related to an oilfield purchase that Petrobras made in 2011 in the west African nation of Benin, among a series of other charges.

Prosecutors said in a statement that they requested Cunha's detention on the grounds that he represented a threat to the integrity of the investigation and was a flight risk. They also asked for bank accounts he holds totaling more than \$60 million to be frozen.

Cunha was arrested in the capital, Brasilia, and was taken to the southern city of Curitiba, where Judge Sergio Moro is presiding over many of the Petrobras cases. In a statement, the former lawmaker said the arrest was "absurd."

The ex-speaker faces multiple ongoing investigations and has been accused of accepting millions of dollars in bribes for himself and other politicians. Cunha denies all the allegations and has said he is the target of a witch hunt for being an adversary of Rousseff's Workers' Party. Cunha launched impeachment proceedings against Rousseff in December when he was speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, accusing her of violat-

ing budget rules.

That led to a Senate vote to remove her from office in August. By that time, corruption allegations already had forced Cunha was forced to resign as speaker. Last month he was stripped of his congressional seat — along with the legal protections against prosecution that come with elected office in Brazil. Cunha then began publicly criticizing Temer, his erstwhile ally, and Cabinet officials.

He announced he would write a tell-all book about the impeachment with the first excerpts to be published in November.

Analysts have said that if Cunha cooperates with prosecutors, he could potentially bring down others in the Petrobras case and create more headaches for the government.

Maria Herminia Tavares de Almeida, a political science professor at the University of Sao Paulo, said Cunha's arrest shows that the Petrobras probe, which has already snared some of Brazil's richest and powerful figures, still threatens others.

"Cunha was an obvious target," de Almeida told the Associated Press. "Many feared that the in-



Brazil's former Lower House President Eduardo Cunha, center, is escorted by federal police to an airplane during his transfer to Curitiba at the police hangar airport in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. The powerful former speaker of Brazil's lower house who spearheaded the ouster of President Dilma Rousseff was arrested Wednesday as part of a sprawling graft probe involving state oil giant Petrobras.

(Michael Melo/Metropoles via AP)

vestigations on Petrobras would be about to end or that they would focus only on the Workers' Party, but today shows that there is a bigger picture."

Following the arrest, Temer's office said the president had cut short a trip to Japan and was expected to be back in Brasilia on Friday.

Congress was expected to have a busy schedule this week, but deputy speaker Waldir Maranhao, an ally of Cunha, suspended Wednesday's session after the news broke.

Swiss officials have confirmed bank accounts there in Cunha's name, with media reports putting their value in December at

2.4 million Swiss francs (\$2.5 million).

"I hope the Swiss gives us that money back," said doorman Francisco Aldo, a resident of central Rio. "Cunha is a big fish, but all that I hope is that he snitches on all the others that made him so big. Corruption in Brazil is far from over." □

Argentines mourn crime, protest violence against women

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentines marched in the capital of Buenos Aires on Wednesday to condemn violence against women, the latest public outcry after the recent killing of a 16-year-old girl who was slain after she was drugged, raped and tortured.

Lucia Perez was found dead in the coastal city

of Mar del Plata earlier this month. Authorities say that she had been forced to consume cocaine, and was later raped and impaled by two men who have been arrested. The prosecutor investigating the crime called the attack "an act of inhuman sexual aggression."

The demonstration that is being echoed in other Lat-

in American countries was organized on social media by women's groups under the slogans NiUnaMenos, meaning "Not one less" and "Black Wednesday." There were 275 gender-based killings of Argentine women in the past year, according to Casa del Encuentro, a women's rights group and shelter. In 40 of those cases, women had

reported attacks by men, and some even had a restraining order.

Demonstrators dressed in black to mourn the victims. A group of women also staged a brief strike and stopped working as a sign of protest. Similar marches against gender-based violence are taking place in Mexico, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. □

Dominican officials recover debris from small plane crash

EZEQUIEL LOPEZ

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Authorities in the Dominican Republic said Wednesday that they have recovered debris floating in the ocean they believe is linked to a small plane that recently crashed with three people aboard.

Rescue crews found two aircraft seats, pieces of fuselage and a backpack

but no sign of the couple from Tennessee and a Canadian man who were aboard the plane, Emmanuel Souffront, director of a commission that investigates airline accidents, told The Associated Press.

The single-engine Lake LA-250 crashed Monday night off the north coast of the Dominican Republic amid a thunderstorm after taking off from the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

The passengers were identified as Charles and Candy Ritzen and photographer Benjamin Cole Brown, Aviation Civil Institute spokesman Hector Olivo told the AP.

The Ritzens had lived for more than a decade in Puerto Plata, where they opened a small dental clinic in 2009 to treat impoverished people with help from donations and doctors who worked on a voluntary

basis. They also opened an ecotourism park called "Monkey Jungle," whose revenue they used to help operate the clinic as well as to buy medicine, said Dominican dentist Giancarlo Brache.

"They fell in love with the island," recalled Brache, who worked as a volunteer at the clinic for six years. "The energy in that place and the Ritzens' dedication captivated me imme-

diately."

Meanwhile, Brown lived in the tourist area of Cabarete and was involved in humanitarian work, said Genesis Reyes, a friend and local photographer. Brown established a non-profit foundation that employed local artisans and helped other groups build homes for poor people in the Dominican Republic and neighboring Haiti. □

Mexico prosecutors hunt for ex-governor in corruption case



In this Aug. 5, 2016 photo, outgoing Veracruz Gov. Javier Duarte arrives to the Attorney General's headquarters in Mexico City. A senior Mexican official says prosecutors are trying to detain the former governor on suspicion of corruption. Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong told Radio Formula on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016 that officials aren't sure where Duarte is, but believe he's still in the country.

(AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

MARIA VERZA

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Authorities are trying to arrest the embattled former governor of Veracruz state

who is under investigation for alleged money laundering and participation in organized crime, but his whereabouts are unknown, Mexico's attorney general

said Wednesday.

Attorney General Arely Gomez said Duarte is part of a group of nine people who are all being sought on similar charges. Two women

among them were arrested Tuesday.

A federal official who was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity said they were "fronts" for Duarte and helped him launder money.

Duarte stepped down as governor Oct. 12, a month and a half before his term was supposed to end. At the time he said he wanted to confront the corruption allegations, which he denies. The governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, has stripped Duarte of his party rights.

Prosecutors have opened at least two investigations targeting the ex-governor for possible illegal enrichment, embezzlement and breach of public duty.

Interior Secretary Miguel Angel Osorio Chong told Radio Formula earlier Wednesday that officials do not know where Duarte is but believe he is in the country because immigration authorities have no re-

cord of him departing.

Still, he said federal prosecutors were preparing a request for Interpol to issue an international arrest warrant if he does leave. Duarte was last seen in the state capital of Xalapa, Osorio Chong added.

Critics say vast sums of state funds disappeared during the nearly six years Duarte led Veracruz, which has been plagued by rising drug gang violence as the Zetas and Jalisco New Generation cartels war for control in the Gulf Coast state.

At least 16 journalists were killed in Veracruz during Duarte's time in office, and hundreds of people have disappeared.

In June, the PRI lost the Veracruz governorship for the first time since the party was founded over eight decades ago.

Osorio Chong, appearing later together with Gomez, denied that the government allowed Duarte to slip away. □

Venezuela frees opposition activist with US citizenship

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela has freed an opposition activist with dual U.S. citizenship after keeping him jailed for four months.

Francisco Marquez immediately left the country under the terms of his release on Tuesday. He was arrested in June while taking part in a nationwide recall campaign against President Nicolas Maduro. Pros-

ecutors said Marquez had nearly \$3,000 in local currency and was trying to foment violence. His backers say the allegation is false and meant to intimidate government opponents.

Marquez was arrested along with a fellow activist from the Popular Will opposition party. The other activist, who has dual Spanish citizenship, was released in September and went into exile in Spain.

Members of the opposi-

tion cheered Marquez's release, but said the government had succeeded in driving away two important opposition activists who had chosen to stay and fight for Venezuela at a time when many middle class young people have left.

Marquez, a graduate of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, had been working as chief of staff for an opposition mayor in Caracas.

Thomas Shannon, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, visited Caracas over the summer and called on Maduro to release Marquez and other jailed activists widely considered political prisoners. Shannon has been trying to thaw relations with Venezuela, and has made several trips to the South American country, so far with few indications of success.

Venezuelan officials did not say why they were re-

leasing Marquez, who had been charged with money laundering.

Venezuela continues to hold another high-profile U.S. prisoner arrested in June: 24 year-old Utah resident Joshua Holt, who came to Venezuela to marry a woman he met online and was arrested on weapons charges for allegedly possessing weapons that his attorneys say were planted. □



Happy Loyal Visitors Honored at the Playa Linda Beach Resort

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very special women who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Playa Linda Beach Resort as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary titles is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mrs. Joanne Cook from Dracut, Massachusetts, honored as a Distinguished Visitor, and Ms. Lauri Parsons from Quincy, Massachusetts, honored as a Goodwill Ambassador. Both ladies are loyal members of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, and just about everything else! They tell us that being on Aruba and staying at the Playa Linda is like paradise for them. On this trip they brought a big group of family members with them to Aruba to enjoy a well-deserved vacation. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with family members of the honorees and Ms. Yvette Tromp representing the Playa Linda Beach Resort. □



Loyal Guests Honored at the Costa Linda Beach Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Costa Linda Beach Resort as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees for Distinguished Visitors were Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Joann Roccia of New Jersey, and the honoree for Goodwill Ambassador was Ms. Marsha Kinney from California. All of these guests are loyal members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and they

love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Costa Linda Beach Resort is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with family and friends of the honorees and Gloria and Lina from the Costa Linda Beach Resort.



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□

Aruba Chamber Business Event 2016

ORANJESTAD - The Aruba Chamber of Commerce proudly presents its Aruba Chamber Business Event 2016!

You are invited for an evening of engaging content and atmosphere, where the importance, trends and vulnerabilities of Cyber Security will be addressed. Together with a hacking demonstration, this content will leave you with a load of idea-sharing and food for ample networking time. Evening includes hors d'oeuvres, drinks & live entertainment by Buleria! The event takes place tonight, Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 7:00pm - 11:30pm at the Marriott Grand Ballroom. The dress-code is Business elegant, and entrance fee is \$100. Reserve your ticket now: www.arubachamber.com/signup, Aruba Chamber Business Event 2016, or send an e-mail to: secretariat@arubachamber.com or call: 582-1566 ext. 29/41. Together with this year's Annual Business Event's theme, 'Cyber Security' the Chamber also presents a workshop covering this interesting topic. Mr. Rickey Gevers will be hosting this hands-on Cyber Security workshop on October 21st. The workshop will examine the current cyber security landscape, threats, and challenges ahead for organizations and how senior leaders can work towards "shifting their data to being safe and secure." It focuses on non-technical, highly actionable and leadership oriented aspects. □

www.arubachamber.com/signup, Aruba Chamber Business Event 2016, or send an e-mail to: secretariat@arubachamber.com or call: 582-1566 ext. 29/41. Together with this year's Annual Business Event's theme, 'Cyber Security' the Chamber also presents a workshop covering this interesting topic. Mr. Rickey Gevers will be hosting this hands-on Cyber Security workshop on October 21st. The workshop will examine the current cyber security landscape, threats, and challenges ahead for organizations and how senior leaders can work towards "shifting their data to being safe and secure." It focuses on non-technical, highly actionable and leadership oriented aspects. □



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Ling & Sons Set to Host Delicious "Nice To Meat You Festival"



ORANJESTAD - Ling & Sons IGA Supercenter, the largest supermarket on the island is organizing another great event: "Nice to Meat You Festival". During this festival you can taste all of the different types of delicious meats the supermarket has to offer. There will be meat tastings, wine tastings, and a lot of great tips of how to prepare meat. The meat festival takes place Saturday, October 22nd from 12pm to

5pm. This event is a free with great surprises for all attendees. The supermarket will offer great specials and a chance to win amazing prizes during this event. Visit our meat festival and try out the best meat selection on the Island. Are you ready for the Meat festival? To find out more, visit our website or facebook page, www.facebook.com/lingandsons. □



Mindy Wallace Honored at the Renaissance Ocean Suites



ORANJESTAD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special and lovely lady who is a loyal and friendly visitor of Aruba as a Distinguished Visitor at the Renaissance Ocean Suites. The symbolic

honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honoree was Mrs. Mindy Wallace from Salt Lake City, Utah. Mindy

is a loyal member of the Renaissance Ocean Suites and she loves Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the safety, the climate, the beaches, the restaurants, and the great entertainment. She says being on Aruba



and staying at the Renaissance Ocean Suites is like being home for her. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba

Tourism Authority together with Mindy's husband Mr. Mike Wallace and Mrs. Linda Garcia representing the Renaissance Ocean Suites. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

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New York Knicks' Derrick Rose arrives at Federal Court in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016. Associated Press

NBA's Derrick Rose cleared in rape lawsuit, poses with jury

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

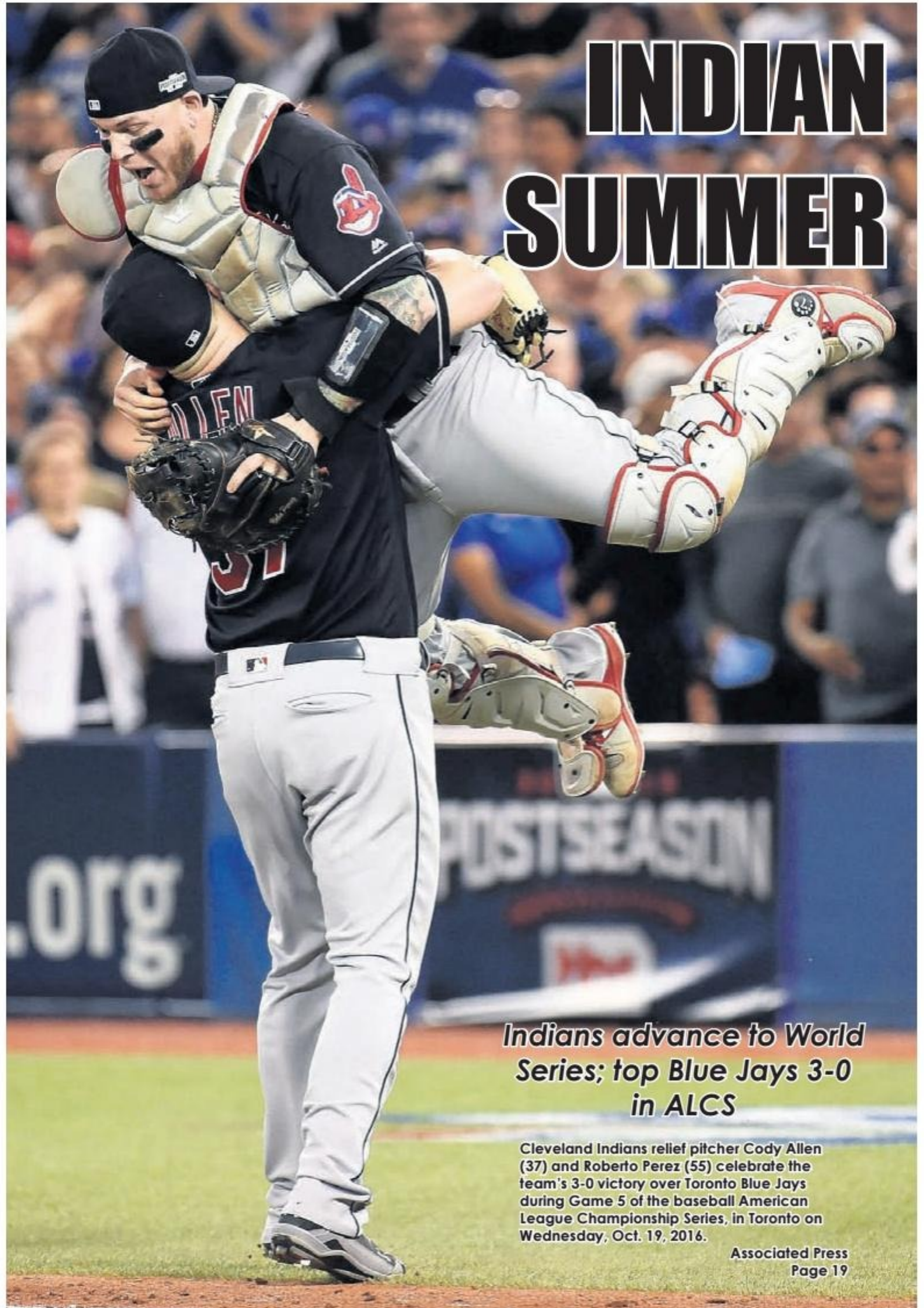
LOS ANGELES (AP) — NBA star Derrick Rose and two friends were cleared Wednesday in a \$21.5 million lawsuit that accused them of gang raping his ex-girlfriend when she was incapacitated from drugs or alcohol.

Jurors in Los Angeles federal court reached the verdict in less than four hours after concluding there was a lack of evidence to support the woman's claims and dismissing her account as unbelievable.

"It felt like she was playing us," said a juror who would only give his first name as Jared. "The second her lawyer started questioning her, she would start crying. I mean, granted, that could be realistic, but I feel I'm pretty good at reading people, and I felt as if it was false."

Jared was among several jurors who spoke to reporters outside the courthouse, none of whom gave their full names.

Continued on Page 20



INDIAN SUMMER

Indians advance to World Series; top Blue Jays 3-0 in ALCS

Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Cody Allen (37) and Roberto Perez (55) celebrate the team's 3-0 victory over Toronto Blue Jays during Game 5 of the baseball American League Championship Series, in Toronto on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016.

Associated Press
Page 19

Top soccer ref Howard Webb reveals how he endures OCD

SIMON HAYDON

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — In his changing room before the 2010 World Cup final in South Africa, referee Howard Webb wasn't comfortable in his blue shirt.

So he took it off.

Put it back on.

Took it off.

Put it back on.

Did this six times.

Moments from the most important game of his life, Webb was struck down by another bout of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), a condition in which a person has obsessive thoughts and compulsive behavior.

Webb kept the condition secret throughout a career that saw him referee the Champions League final and World Cup final in the same year, fearing the harsh world of soccer would mark him down as mentally unsound.

He has revealed the condition in an autobiography, and told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that he didn't want to jeopardize his career. "You have to give the impression of being an assured and confident person," he said.

In Johannesburg, as the Netherlands and Spain prepared for the World Cup final,

Webb was trying to get changed. He wrote: "I reached into my kit bag and grabbed my azure blue Adidas shirt.

However as I pulled it on, a negative thought invaded my head, my anxiety levels rose and I took the top off again to erase that nagging feeling.

"In the end it took me about six attempts to keep that bloody shirt on my back."

His mood wasn't improved by what happened on the field. In a dirty game full of nasty fouls, the ex-policeman showed the yellow card 14 times and the red card once, a record for a World Cup final.

He also missed a vicious kick to the chest of an opponent by Netherlands player Nigel de Jong.



In this Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013 file photo, referee Howard Webb gestures during the Champions League group G soccer match between FC Porto and Atletico de Madrid in Porto, northern Portugal. Associated Press

"There are some that are unrefereeable and that was one of them," he said about the biggest game in global soccer.

Webb said he tried to avoid sending players off, but agreed that that sometimes meant he failed to show the red card when he should have done.

"I recall a Manchester derby when Cristiano Ronaldo sarcastically applauded me after I booked him," Webb said. "Of course, I should have showed him the red card (sarcastic applause is seen as dissent, a booking offense) but I thought to myself, 'I'm going to change the course of the game by doing this.' For want of a better word, I bottled it by not sending him off."

The 45-year-old Webb is a soccer analyst and head of refereeing for the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, and says he'd like to land more roles that help to develop refs.

Famous as much for his bald head as his refereeing, Webb says the OCD began when he was a boy growing up in Rother-

ham, east of Manchester in northern England.

He noticed that sometimes he kissed his mother goodbye in the morning and a bad thought entered his head that something was going to happen to her. So he would kiss her again - and again - until a positive thought about her entered his head and he could relax.

His parents noticed the behavior, but brushed it aside as "Howard's habits."

Webb kept it from his football employers.

"I could have imagined some less-than-sympathetic person remarking, 'Can we trust Webb on a football field? Or shall we hand that semifinal to a ref who's, erm, not so flaky?'" Until he retired in 2014, Webb was England's top referee,

and his autobiography reveals a profession riven by in-fighting among the small group of elite refs who control English Premier League games.

"What had been intended as an informal beer and barbecue night in Cumbria almost descended into a

version of Fight Night ... between Graham Poll and Mark Halsey," Webb wrote. He said: "Watching them trading personal insults and squaring up to each other was pretty unedifying." Both ex-referees have denied any such clash took place.

While more and more technology was being introduced to help refs, Webb said footballing authorities needed to recognize that technology has its limits.

"There has to be a clear acceptance that it won't be the answer to every decision in the game," he said.

Goal-line technology has proved a big success, but Webb was a less a fan of video technology.

"Some decisions aren't right or wrong," he said. "They're subjective decisions that should be made by the referee." □

A long road back to PGA Tour for Fernandez-Castano

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NAPA, Calif. (AP) — The easy road back for Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano would have been to return to the comfort of Spain. He chose Newburgh, Indiana.

There was another stop in Wichita, Kansas. He made his first trip to Beachwood, Ohio.

This is the travel schedule on the Web.com Tour, looked upon as the primary path for young players to reach the PGA Tour. The average purse is about \$625,000, which isn't even second-place money on the PGA Tour.

It's not a place Fernandez-Castano, a seven-time winner on the European Tour who once was No. 27 in the world, ever expected to be. The reason he uprooted his wife and three young children in Spain and moved to Miami was to fulfill his goal of playing against the best in the

world on the PGA Tour.

Two years later, he lost his card and considered only one option.

He packed his bags, including his ego, and headed off to the minor leagues for the first time in his career.

"It was hard when it happened, but I had to stick to the plan," he said.

"The easiest decision would have been to pack up and go to Europe. My dream was always to play on the PGA Tour, and I couldn't give up on my dreams. I knew I had to work hard. I knew it wasn't going to be easy.

The Web.com is tough. There's a lot of good players. And things weren't going my way. But losing my tour card, sticking to the Web.com Tour for a year and getting back here, it feels pretty darn good.

"It's one of the proudest moments of my golf career."

He has had more than a few good moments. □

Cleveland Indians head to World Series, top Jays in ALCS

NOAH TRISTER

AP Baseball Writer

TORONTO (AP) — A most unlikely pitching performance helped put a most unexpected team into the World Series.

Cleveland rookie Ryan Merritt came out of nowhere and coolly delivered a lead to the Andrew Miller-led bullpen, and the Indians won their first pennant since 1997 by blanking Toronto 3-0 Wednesday in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series.

Cleveland, which has never hosted a World Series opener, will play Game 1 at Progressive Field on Tuesday night against the Chicago Cubs or Los Angeles Dodgers.

Manager Terry Francona's team will try to augment what's already been a scintillating year in Cleveland after LeBron James and the Cavaliers earned the city's first major pro sports championship since 1964, winning the NBA championship. The Indians' title drought dates to 1948. "We always said if we could do it with this group it would be so special because this is as close to a family feel as you can get in a professional setting. So for that part of it, it is beyond feeling good," Francona said.



Members of the Cleveland Indians celebrate after their 3-0 win in Game 5 of baseball's American League Championship Series against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. Associated Press

Miller, acquired from the New York Yankees in a mid-season trade, was selected the ALCS MVP as the Indians took their sixth pennant.

"I feel like I've said the word 'special' a million times in the last 20 or 30 minutes. But it's the truth. It's a blast to be a part of," Miller said. With just 11 major league innings under his belt — and only one start, on Sept. 30 — Merritt took the mound and looked just like a sea-

soned vet. The 24-year-old lefty retired the first 10 batters and allowed a mere two hits before being pulled after 4 1/3 innings.

"I know they were counting on me," Merritt said. "Before the game, they came and told me they had my back, everybody had my back, good or bad. So that takes some pressure off, and I just went out there and pitched and trusted my team."

Merritt got taps on his

heart and hat from teammates when he left the mound. Then it was up to Cleveland's tireless relievers to hold a three-run lead against the wild-card Blue Jays. Miller again did most of the heavy lifting, going 2 2/3 innings before Cody Allen worked the ninth for a save. Winning pitcher Bryan Shaw tossed an inning before Miller came in.

Carlos Santana and Coco Crisp homered for the Indians.

With starting pitchers Carlos Carrasco, Danny Salazar and Trevor Bauer dealing with injuries, the Indians kept defying the odds.

Cleveland overtook defending World Series champion Kansas City and topped a \$196 million Detroit team to win the AL Central, then put an abrupt end to Big Papi's career, sweeping David Ortiz and the Boston Red Sox in the Division Series.

The Indians stayed on a roll in the ALCS, shutting down the Blue Jays. Cleveland won despite hitting .168 in the series, with slick-fielding shortstop Francisco Lindor leading the way in going 7 for 19. Toronto lost in the ALCS for the second straight year. "I'm sure there will be some disappointments and grumbling and complaining about how you fell short again, but that's not coming from me," manager John Gibbons said. "Because I know what these guys did, and I think it's a pretty good accomplishment. The key is we want to take that next step one of these days. Hopefully, it's next year."

Merritt struck out three batters in the first two innings — all looking — and didn't allow a baserunner until Josh Donaldson's one-out single in the fourth. □

Miller's Moment: Cleveland reliever chosen MVP of ALCS

NOAH TRISTER

AP Baseball Writer

TORONTO (AP) — MVP: Most Versatile Pitcher.

The humble workhorse in a wipeout bullpen, Andrew Miller was selected AL Championship Series MVP after his latest splendid performance in relief helped the Cleveland Indians win their first pennant since 1997. Miller tossed 2 2/3 scoreless innings in a 3-0 victory Wednesday over Toronto, capping a five-game series in which the lanky left-hander overpowered the Blue Jays. He had one strikeout in Game 5 and finished the series with 14 — an ALCS record for a reliever. Miller gave up three hits in 7 2/3 shutout innings against the

Blue Jays and earned a save in Game 3.

Now the Indians are on to the World Series for the sixth time — looking for their first championship since 1948.

Miller was acquired from the New York Yankees for a package of prospects in a July 31 trade, and Cleveland had an interesting idea of how to use him. Rather than restricting him to a closer role or using him only in the eighth inning, the Indians have been flexible with Miller — especially in the postseason.

Whenever his team has a lead in the middle innings, the 6-foot-7 (2.01 meters) Miller begins looming large in the bullpen.

Drafted sixth overall by Detroit out of North Carolina

in 2006, Miller was part of the blockbuster deal that sent Miguel Cabrera from the Marlins to the Tigers after the 2007 season. Miller made 66 starts in the majors but never fulfilled his promise until switching to the bullpen. His first full season as a reliever — with Boston in 2012 — provided a hint of what was possible.

Miller posted a 3.35 ERA in 53 appearances that year, and the following season he overpowered hitters with 48 strikeouts in 30 2/3 innings. After stops with Baltimore and the Yankees, Miller ended up in Cleveland, and the Indians had an unorthodox plan for his usage. "When they were upstairs in their meetings about the trade talks and



Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Andrew Miller accepts the MVP trophy for the series after the Indians defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 3-0 in Game 5 of the baseball American League Championship Series in Toronto on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. Associated Press

they were talking about Andrew, they were actually talking — and I was in there listening and doing some talking — just about

how he would fit into a bullpen and how you could leverage him, just like we are now," manager Terry Francona said. □

Kyrgios skips tennis event in favor of NBA celebrity game

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Controversial tennis player Nick Kyrgios will be free to participate in an NBA celebrity game in February after being released from his contract with an ATP event in the Netherlands.

Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion and tournament director of the ANB Amro event in Rotterdam, posted a link to a statement on Twitter late Wednesday saying he'd agreed to cancel the contract at the request of Kyrgios, the 21-year-old Australian who this week received an eight-week ban from the tennis tour for "tanking" a match in China.

Krajicek said he took the decision so Kyrgios, an avid basketball fan, could attend the annual NBA All-Star weekend and play in a celebrity game on Feb. 19, the same day as the fi-



In this Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016 file photo Nick Kyrgios, of Australia, leaves the court after retiring from a match against Illya Marchenko, of Ukraine, during the U.S. Open tennis tournament, in New York.

nal in Rotterdam.

He said Kyrgios' manager had made the approach to withdraw "several weeks ago" and tournament organizers decided Tuesday to terminate the contract.

"We wanted to hold him to

his contract," said Krajicek, but ... "You see what can happen when he is tired and has little meaning, as in China."

"We want a top tennis player seen on the court. If every week he is focused

on tennis, he might be mentally burned out after six months. He needs an outlet."

The ATP, which runs the men's tennis tour, suspended Kyrgios on Monday and fined him an additional \$25,000 for "conduct contrary to the integrity of the game" following an investigation into his behavior during a second-round loss to German qualifier Mischa Zverev last week at the Shanghai Masters.

The No. 12-ranked Kyrgios gave little effort during the 6-3, 6-1 defeat, and had already been fined \$16,500 for failing to give a full effort, unsportsmanlike conduct and verbal abuse of a spectator.

He was banned until Jan. 15 — a day before the start of the Australian Open, but the suspension could be reduced to three weeks if Kyrgios agrees to enter "a plan of care under the di-

rection of a sportspsychologist."

Kyrgios issued a statement Monday offering another apology for his conduct in Shanghai, saying he will be back in 2017.

It's not the first time that Kyrgios has run into trouble with tennis authorities. Last year, he insulted Stan Wawrinka with crude remarks during a match in Montreal. He received \$12,500 in fines, as well as a suspended 28-day ban and a potential further \$25,000 fine if he picked up any other major offenses over the following six months. His probation for that ended in February.

Kyrgios attracted criticism for his performances at Wimbledon and at the U.S. Open, for deciding not to play at the Olympics because of a spat with an Australian team official, and for firing back at retired players who have offered advice. □

Derrick Rose

Continued from Page 17

Rose remained stoic as the verdict was read and later thanked jurors and posed for photos with them in the lobby, draping his left arm around each one who wanted a souvenir of the Knicks point guard as one of his lawyers snapped photos on their phones.

"I am thankful that the jury understood and agreed with me," Rose said in a statement. "This experience and my sensitivity to it was deep. I am ready to put this behind me and focus on my family and career." The case was X-rated at times with testimony from the men about poolside group sex at a mansion Rose rented in Beverly Hills in the summer of 2013 and multiple sexual encounters throughout the night and into the next morning.

The woman denied having sex at Rose's place, saying she had a few tequila shots and felt drugged before going home. Her lawyer said the defense invented the story to make it look like she had willingly had sex with the men.

The incident in question

happened hours later in the early morning of Aug. 27 when she said the three men came to her Los Angeles apartment and had sex with her after she had passed out.

The issue for the jury was whether she consented to sex or was too intoxicated to do so. The men all said it was clear she was willing when she stopped the three outside her bedroom door and said, "One at a time." Defense lawyers tarred her as a gold-digging liar who tried to sway jurors through emotions to get a piece of Rose's fortune. They claimed she was angry he had dumped her, so she set him up and brought the lawsuit in hopes of a big payoff. "All three men were innocent from Day 1," Rose's attorney, Mark Baute, said after the verdict. "We're very happy that the system worked." The woman's lawyer called the men "sexual deviants" who conspired to gang rape her after she was drunk and incapable of consenting to sex.

Attorney Waukeen McCoy said he will explore appeal



In this Oct. 4, 2016 file photo, New York Knicks guard Derrick Rose dribbles against the Houston Rockets in the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game, in Houston.

options.

"It's a shame for women, for this country, that a celebrity can come into court and slut-shame a woman like my client," McCoy said. The accuser, who had become emotional and trembled at times while testifying, buried her head in her hands as the verdict was read, with her long hair

covering her face.

McCoy said the woman was devastated and did not understand how jurors could reach their conclusion. She left the courthouse without commenting. Rose's lawyer said in closing arguments Tuesday that the suit was a "hoax and a joke" and jurors should not even award \$20

because it would doom the future of the onetime MVP and the family and friends he was supporting by violating a morals clause in his player contract and a lucrative deal with Adidas. The woman's lawyer said during closings that the 30-year-old college student was not in it for the money, but was seeking accountability for what was morally and legally wrong. He said the men had never apologized or shown any remorse.

"The three men laughed their way home," McCoy said. The defense portrayed Rose and his childhood pals, Ryan Allen and Randall Hampton, who both work for him, as victims in the case and the lawyers mocked the woman's lies and demeanor on the witness stand.

The juror named Jared said the panel of six women and two men had found the three defendants genuine and honest. Jared and the jury forewoman, who wouldn't give her name, said they went through each piece of evidence provided to support the woman's case and found nothing added up. □

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Rams coach Jeff Fisher praises Giants' Janoris Jenkins

TOM CANAVAN
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— Janoris Jenkins is humble enough and smart enough not to call himself the best cornerback in the NFL. So let Los Angeles Rams coach Jeff Fisher speak for the former free agent whom the New York Giants signed in the offseason to a five-year, \$62.5 million contract.

In discussing Sunday's game between the Giants (3-3) and Rams (3-3) in London, Fisher was glowing when asked about Jenkins, who played his first four seasons with Fisher in St. Louis. Fisher wanted Jenkins back with the Rams this season, but it seemed the team could not match the Giants' offer, which included a \$10 million signing bonus and a \$28 million guarantee.

"He played really well for us. He overcame a couple of injury things," Fisher said. "I'm just saying to reiterate, but I think you'd be hard pressed to find a corner in this league who's playing better than he is."

"When asked to man up and cover, he's a shutdown corner. When asked to match up with the top receivers, he does it, he plays both sides. When asked to be patient and play zone and play within the scheme, he does it. I'm happy for him, but not happy for us."

Jenkins has not only played well for the Giants, he has been indispensable because of injuries to first-round draft pick Eli Apple and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie.

Apple has been inactive

in two of the past three games with hamstring and groin injuries, while Rodgers-Cromartie missed the Minnesota game with a groin injury and has gutted his way through the past two games against Green Bay and Baltimore.

Jenkins has the Giants only two interceptions this season, and he played the shutdown role on Dez Bryant in the season-opening win against Dallas.

"I am just playing football and doing what I do," Jenkins said after practice Wednesday when asked about Fisher's comments. "That is a nice compliment, but I am just going to stay focused and continue to play football."

Jenkins said he lets other people worry about where he ranks among cornerbacks.

"I think I have played good. I can play better," he said. "Nothing major, but just keep improving every week."

If Jenkins is asked to match up on Sunday, he will probably cover Kenny Britt. The former Rutgers receiver ranks fifth in the NFC with 492 yards receiving. He has 30 catches and two touchdowns.

"Kenny, he is physical, he is big, he is going to give you a lot of pushing and shoving, but we just have to go out there and play football," Jenkins said.

Giants receiver Victor Cruz said Jenkins has a knack for understanding routes and playing the ball well.

"He understands the ball in the air, he really can play it while it is in the air, whether it is a breakup or an interception, he knows how to



New York Giants cornerback Janoris Jenkins (20) defends against Baltimore Ravens' Mike Wallace (17) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

close that gap," Cruz said. "He has that speed to close that gap and get to the football. I am happy that he is on our team, happy he is making plays and

doing some really great things.

Fisher remembers walking into a defensive meeting with the Rams and always seeing Jenkins in the front

row.

"He's a student, he studies, he competes, quietly," Fisher said. "He's got great ball skills and he's playing really well." □

Bon Jovi sets rumor straight on buying Tennessee Titans

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Bon Jovi's upcoming album is entitled, "This House is Not For Sale," and apparently neither are the Tennessee Titans.

Earlier this week, CBS Sports reported that Bon Jovi and Peyton Manning were "monitoring the Tennessee Titans ownership situation," leading to speculation they were looking to purchase the Nashville-based team. That prompted Titans acting owner,

Amy Adams Strunk to say the team is not for sale.

On Wednesday, Jon Bon Jovi sat down with The Associated Press to set the record straight.

"Let me dispel the rumors right now," he said with a laugh. "I wake up to these headlines with my name on them and they're just not true. I want to make it perfectly clear that the team is not for sale, nor has it ever been, and I respect and admire (late franchise founder) Bud Adams' legacy. End of story, I wish

them all the success in the world."

He added: "You wake up to that and you're, 'Wait a minute. I don't want to upset anybody. I didn't do anything.'"

While the New Jersey rocker hopes to add NFL owner to his resume one day, it's not happening yet.

"I love the NFL, and I did in fact try to buy the Buffalo Bills, but this has nothing to do with that. All I'm doing - I'm in the music business. End of story." □

Incognito says he and Martin haven't patched up differences

MIAMI (AP) - Richie Incognito says Jonathan Martin reached out to him several times in the aftermath of the bullying scandal that sabotaged the Miami Dolphins' 2013 season, but Incognito has no interest in talking.

The two were teammates in the Dolphins' offensive line and at the center of the scandal. Incognito is now a guard for the Buffalo Bills, who play the Dolphins on Sunday. In a conference call Wednesday with the South Florida media, Incognito said he has kept in touch with Dolphins players and Joe Philbin, who was their coach then. But he never patched up differences with Martin, once a close friend.

"Zero conversation with Jonathan Martin," Incognito said. "He has reached out and tried to speak a few times, but I have nothing to say."

Martin retired last year. He posted on Facebook that difficulties in the profession led him to attempt suicide multiple times.

An NFL investigation found that Incognito and two teammates engaged in persistent harassment directed at Martin, who left



In this Aug. 26, 2016, file photo, Buffalo Bills offensive guard Richie Incognito (64) waits with others to come onto the field for an NFL preseason football game against the Washington Redskins in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

the team midseason in 2013. Incognito was suspended for the final eight games and sat out the 2014 season before joining the

Bills. Incognito described the Dolphins situation as surreal and a circus.

"The whole incident went down (and) I'm a pariah in

the national media and basically turned radioactive there for a few months," he said. "Jonathan and I were close friends. I cared about

him. If anybody was there for Jonathan, it was me. And Jonathan had his troubles. He had his demons, like we all do. □

NASCAR returns to Mexico for 2017 with new sponsor PEAK

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — NASCAR will resurrect its series in Mexico behind new title sponsor PEAK, an automotive products company seeking to boost its profile. The rebranded NASCAR PEAK Mexico Series will mark its return with an exhibition race in Mexico City in December. The series plans to run a full championship schedule next year. The announcement Tuesday night in Mexico City was attended by Daniel Suarez, who used the series as a starting point that led to his current ride with Joe Gibbs Racing.

Suarez is currently tied for the lead in the Xfinity Series championship. He spent four years racing in NASCAR Mexico and won 10 races before graduating



Matt Kenseth (20) leads the pack during an early lap of a Sprint Cup Series auto race at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan., Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016.

Associated Press

to the national series level. He's the first Mexican driver to win a national series race and lead a national series in points.

NASCAR Mexico has also

helped the development of Ruben Garcia Jr., who has three career Xfinity Series starts, and German Quiroga, who has 53 starts in the Truck Series.

Lou Garate, vice president of partnership marketing for NASCAR, believes the return of the series in Mexico will bolster the popularity of stock car racing and provide opportunities for aspiring drivers and crew members.

"We want this to be a base, and if you can make it in NASCAR Mexico, you can make it in the U.S.," Garate said.

NASCAR Mexico did not run this year as NASCAR reassessed the program after nine seasons. The return was aided by the multi-year agreement with PEAK, a division of Old World Industries that has a lengthy association in auto racing. A privately-held company with only 250 employees, PEAK has a 30-year association with motorsports. PEAK has a relationship with Clint

Bowyer in the Sprint Cup Series and is the title sponsor of NASCAR's eSports partner, iRacing.com. PEAK also is the primary sponsor for John Force in NHRA and has associate sponsorships with several other drivers as well as riders from the Professional Bullriding circuit. For PEAK, each partnership is embraced by the small company and used as a platform for its brand and its employees. NASCAR Mexico provided PEAK a new growth area for the company, said Bryan Emrich, chief marketing officer for Old World Industries.

Emrich said PEAK was intrigued by the potential to leverage its brand both inside Mexico and the U.S., and by the growth of Suarez as a symbol "of the future of where the sport is going with diversity." □

Robot pilots may someday fly passenger and cargo planes

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

MANASSAS, Va. (AP) —

Think of it as the airborne cousin to the self-driving car: a robot in the cockpit to help human pilots fly passengers and cargo — and eventually even replace them.

The government and industry are collaborating on a program that seeks to replace the second human pilot in two-person flight crews with a robot co-pilot that never tires, gets bored, feels stressed out or gets distracted.

The program is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Pentagon's arm for development of emerging technologies, and run by Aurora Flight Sciences, a private contractor. With both the military and airlines struggling with shortages of trained pilots, officials say they see an advantage to reducing the number of pilots required to fly large aircraft while at the same time increasing safety and efficiency by having a robot pick up the mundane tasks of flying.

The idea is to have the robot free the human pilot, especially in emergencies and demanding situations, to think strategically.

"It's really about a spectrum of increasing autonomy and how humans and robots work together so that each can be doing the thing that it's best at," said John Langford, Aurora's chairman and CEO.

Langford even envisions a day when a single pilot on the ground will control multiple airliners in the skies, and people will go about their daily travels in self-flying planes. At a demonstration of the technology at a small airport in Manassas, Virginia, on Monday, a robot with spindly metal tubes and rods for arms and legs and a claw hand grasping the throttle was in the right seat of a single-engine Cessna Caravan. In the left seat, a human pilot tapped commands to his mute colleague on an electronic tablet. The robot did the flying.



Dan Patt, Program Manager, Tactical Technology Office, Aurora Flight Sciences, stands next to the firm's Aircrew Labor In-Cockpit Automation System (ALIAS), which is mounted in the co-pilot seat of a Cessna Caravan aircraft, at Manassas Airport in Manassas, Va., Monday, Oct. 17, 2016.

Sophisticated computers flying planes aren't new. In today's airliners, the autopilot is on nearly the entire time the plane is in the air. Airline pilots do most of their flying for brief minutes during takeoffs and landings, and even those critical phases of flight could be handled by the autopilot. This program, known as Aircrew Labor In-Cockpit Automation System, or ALIAS, goes steps further. For example, an array of cameras allows the robot to see all the cockpit instruments and read the gauges. It can recognize whether switches are in the on or off position, and can flip them to the desired position. And it learns not only from its experience flying the plane, but also from the entire history of flight in that type of plane.

The ALIAS robot "can do everything a human can do" except look out the window, Langford said. Give the program time and maybe the robot can do that, too, he said.

In other ways, the robot is better than the human pilot, reacting faster and instantaneously calling up every emergency checklist for a possible situation, officials said.

In some ways, it will be like flying with a "co-pilot genius," Langford said. "The robot carries in them the DNA of every flight hour in that (aircraft) system, every accident," he said. "It's like having a human pilot with 600,000 hours of experience."

The robot is designed to be a "drop-in" technology, ready for use in any plane or helicopter, even 1950s vintage aircraft built before electronics.

But the robot faces a lot of hurdles before it's ready to start replacing human pilots, not the least of which is that it would require a massive rewrite of Federal Aviation Administration safety regulations. Even small changes to FAA regulations often take years. Elements of the ALIAS technology could be adopted within the next five years, officials said, much the way automakers are gradually adding automated safety features that are the building blocks of self-driving technology. Dan Patt, DARPA's ALIAS program manager, said replacing human pilots with robots is still a couple of decades away, but Langford said he believes the transition will happen sooner than that.

Pilot unions are skeptical that robots can replace humans. Keith Hagy, the Air Line Pilots Association's director of engineering and safety, pointed to instances of multiple system failures during flights where only the heroic efforts of improvising pilots saved lives.

In 2010, for example, an engine on a jumbo Qantas airliner with 469 people on board blew up, firing shrapnel that damaged other critical aircraft systems and the plane's landing gear. The plane's overloaded flight management system

responded with a cascading series of emergency messages for which there was no time to respond. By chance, there were five experienced pilots on board — including three captains — who, working together, were able to land the plane. But it was a close call.

"Those are the kind of abnormal situations when you really need a pilot on board with that judgment and experience and to make decisions," Hagy said. "A robot just isn't going to have that kind of capability." □

Associated Press

WITH GREAT SADNESS WE ANNOUNCE
THE PASSING AWAY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND.



CHERYL BARBARA TALCOF

ON OCTOBER 17, 2016

CHERYL WAS A PERSON WITH A HEART OF GOLD AND RESPECTED LIFE OF ALL LIVING BEINGS, PEOPLE AND ANIMALS. SHE LEAVES BEHIND HER THREE LOVELY GIRLS, MARLEY SU, MINDI LU, AND CHLOE DO. AND A GROUP OF GREAT FRIENDS. SHE WILL BE FOREVER MISSED AND HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN ALL OUR HEARTS. AS PER CHERYL'S WISH SHE WILL BE BURIED IN BOSTON.



US stock indexes notch modest gains as oil prices rise

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Oil and gas exploration companies led U.S. stocks modestly higher Wednesday, giving the market its second gain in two days. Energy stocks, already the best-performing category this year, got a boost from U.S. crude oil prices, which climbed to \$51.60 a barrel, the highest level in 15 months. Companies that make consumer products were the biggest laggards. Investors brushed off new data showing residential construction slowed last month. Instead, the focus remained on the latest crop of companies reporting quarterly results. Overall earnings for companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index have

been down on an annual basis the past five quarters. But the results so far suggest the start of a turnaround, said Paul Christopher, head global market strategist for Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

"We do think the earnings recession is ending," Christopher said. "We're still early in the reporting season, but we see so far the trends that we're looking for."

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 40.68 points, or 0.2 percent, to 18,202.62. The S&P 500 index rose 4.69 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,144.29. The Nasdaq composite index added 2.58 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,246.41.

Indexes wavered between small gains and losses in early trading Wednesday,



Trader Luke Scanlon works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Oil and gas exploration companies led U.S. stocks modestly higher Wednesday, giving the market its second gain in two days.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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- Good eye for detail

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Only candidates who meet the required criteria and qualify for an interview will be contacted. Please email Resume to: hrmanager@bucuti.com



then turned higher by mid-day and stayed higher for the rest of the day. Morgan Stanley rose 1.9 percent after the investment bank said its earnings soared 62 percent in the third quarter, thanks to

big gains in bond trading. Goldman Sachs disclosed similar results Tuesday. Morgan Stanley added 61 cents to \$32.93. Quarterly results from other companies failed to impress traders. □

T-Mobile fined \$48M over its slowing 'unlimited' data plans

TALI ARBEL
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—T-Mobile, the country's No. 3 wireless carrier, will pay \$48 million for not clearly telling customers how "unlimited" data plans weren't really, well, unlimited. The Federal Communications Commission said Wednesday that T-Mobile had a policy to slow down the speeds of customers who were the heaviest data users. But the agency said the company didn't let customers know what the data-use threshold was for triggering the lower speed. The FCC said T-Mobile started doing a better job with disclosures in June 2015.

The carrier now says in small print on its website that slower speeds may result for customers using more than 26 gigabytes a month if the network is congested.

Asked for comment, T-Mobile referred to CEO John Legere's tweet that it was a

"good settlement with the FCC" and that the company "believes more info is best for customers."

Spokeswoman Stacey DiNuzzo said the changes that were made in June of last year were deemed sufficient and no more are necessary to comply with the settlement's conditions. FCC spokesman Will Wiquist declined to comment on where T-Mobile stands. This isn't the first time the agency has gone after the limits of unlimited plans. It fined AT&T \$100 million last year for misleading customers on the mechanics of its unlimited plans — the carrier had been slowing speeds significantly after users hit a certain data threshold, even if there was no bottleneck. AT&T has contested the fine. Today, AT&T says on its website (also in small print) that it slows down heavy users' data speeds after 22 GB are used in a month if there is network congestion. □

Morgan Stanley's earnings jump, helped by trading

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Morgan Stanley's earnings soared 62 percent in the third quarter, thanks to big gains in bond trading.

The New York-based investment bank said Wednesday it earned \$1.52 billion after payments to preferred shareholders, up from \$939 million in the same period a year earlier.

Earnings per share, excluding an accounting adjustment, were 81 cents versus 34 cents a year earlier. The results beat forecasts. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected the bank to earn 63 cents per share.

Like its major competitor Goldman Sachs, and other major banks like JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley had a strong quarter on its trading desks, particu-

larly bond trading. Morgan Stanley's investment bank and trading division reported revenue of \$4.6 billion compared with \$3.5 billion a year earlier, excluding an accounting adjustment. Bond sales and trading revenue jumped to \$1.5 billion, nearly triple the \$583 million figure from a year earlier. Stock trading revenue edged up to \$1.9 billion from \$1.8 billion.

Revenue from Morgan Stanley's wealth management arm rose to \$3.9 billion from \$3.6 billion. Assets under management increased \$13.5 billion in the quarter. Morgan Stanley has been building up its wealth management business, previously known as Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, as a more stable driver of earnings compared with trading, which can ebb and

flow with market volatility. "Overall the results reflect steady progress against our long term strategic goals," said Morgan Stanley CEO James Gorman said in a prepared statement. Return on common equity, a closely watched metric for investment banks, rose to 8.7 percent, a big improvement from 5.6 percent in the same period a year earlier. □

American Express profit falls 10 percent, but tops estimates

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — American Express said its third-quarter profits fell by 10 percent from a year earlier, as the company absorbs the loss of its lucrative deal with Costco.

However, the results handily beat analysts' expectations and the company raised its full-year profit guidance, sending its shares up sharply in after-hours trading.

The credit card giant said Wednesday that it earned \$1.14 billion in the quarter ending September 30, or \$1.20 per share, down from \$1.27 billion, or \$1.24 per share, in the same period a year earlier. Analysts had been expecting AmEx to earn 97 cents per share in the latest quarter, according to FactSet.

New York-based American Express continues to deal with the aftereffects of losing its exclusive partnership with warehouse chain Costco. At the time the divorce was announced in January 2015, Costco represented roughly 10



This photo shows a mockup of an American Express Platinum Card provided by the company, in New York. American Express reported financial results Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016.

(AP Photo/Patrick Sison)

percent of all AmEx-issued credit cards and 8 percent of AmEx's billed business. The companies officially parted ways in June of this year and American Express cards are no longer accepted at Costco stores.

The Costco co-branded credit card is now managed by Citigroup.

Costco aside, AmEx had had a relatively strong quarter.

The company's U.S. consumer card division post-

ed a profit of \$401 million, down from \$542 million a year earlier, reflecting the absence of Costco from its results. But average card-holder spending, a closely watched metric for the company, was up 10

percent from a year earlier. AmEx earns most of its money from taking a percentage of each transaction run on its payment network, similar to Visa and MasterCard. The average fee paid per card also increased.

In most of AmEx's divisions, the company was able to at least partially offset the loss of Costco from its books — a sign that the transition efforts that AmEx executives took on a year earlier appear to be working. AmEx has said it planned on increasing promotions and marketing to retain card holders, and would look to enhance its card products to keep its card holders from fleeing to its competition.

Along with Citigroup's recent acquisition of the Costco business, AmEx is also facing competition from JPMorgan Chase, which launched a premium credit card called Chase Sapphire Reserve that has received extraordinary interest since its launch less than two months ago. □

Starbucks plans to double stores in China in 5 years

JOSEPH PISANI

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) Starbucks is pushing ahead with its expansion into mainland China, saying Wednesday it's on track to have 5,000 stores by 2021, more than doubling the number of its coffee shops in the country. The Seattle-based coffee chain is looking to China to fuel its growth. It's grown rapidly since opening its

first Chinese store in 1999, though famously suffered a misstep nearly a decade ago when protests over a shop inside the Forbidden City led to it being closed. Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz has said China could one day surpass the U.S. as the chain's largest market. There are about 13,000 Starbucks stores in the United States.

Among chain coffee shops,

Starbucks had a 74 percent market share in mainland China in 2015, according to market research company Euromonitor.

The company's closest competitors are McDonald's Corp.'s McCafe and Whitbread PLC's Costa Coffee, both of which had market shares slightly above 9 percent, according to Euromonitor.

Starbucks has been add-

ing unique flavors to attract Chinese customers, such as a Black Forest Latte, a mix of cherry juice, cocoa powder and coffee.

And in September it began selling its Teavana tea brand at its China locations.

Chinese customers spend more time in Starbucks shops and are buying more food than Americans, Schultz told The Associ-

ated Press. Late next year, Starbucks plans to open a 30,000-square-foot store in Shanghai that Schultz called a "Disneyland for coffee." Named the Starbucks Roastery and Reserve Tasting Room, the store will be similar to one opened in Seattle nearly two years ago, where customers can watch coffee beans get roasted and sip mixed coffee drinks. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2			1	9		
	4	3				5	8	
9					7			3
2		5						
			6		5			
						1		9
5			3					1
	7	4				6	9	
		8	9			4		

Difficulty Level ★★

10/20

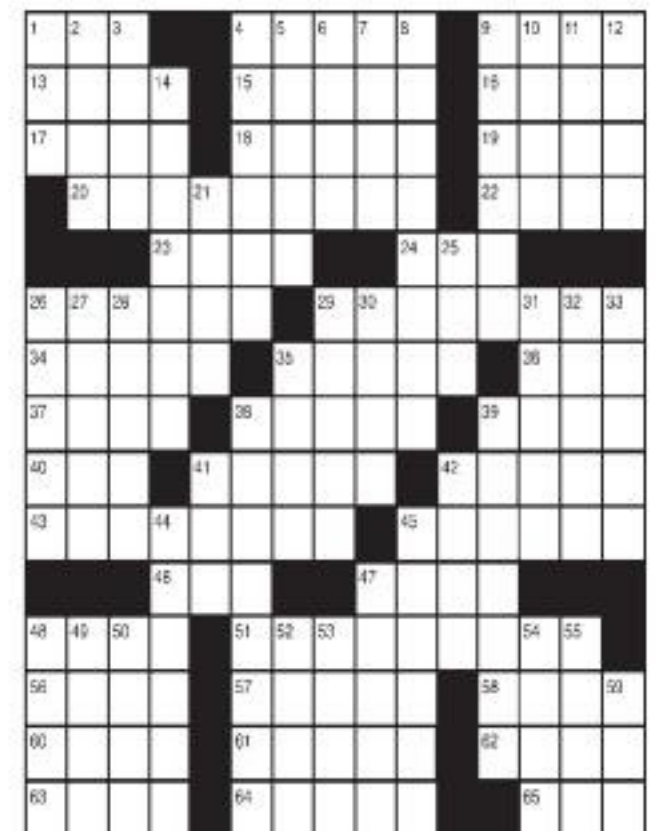
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	2	8	9	1	7	3	6	5
7	6	5	3	8	2	1	9	4
1	3	9	4	6	5	8	7	2
2	1	6	5	9	8	4	3	7
5	9	4	7	2	3	6	8	1
8	7	3	1	4	6	5	2	9
9	4	7	8	3	1	2	5	6
6	8	1	2	5	9	7	4	3
3	5	2	6	7	4	9	1	8

ACROSS

- 1 Space; opening
- 4 Tiny
- 9 Piece of china
- 13 "Woe is me!"
- 15 Lake boat
- 16 Chocolate-covered caramel candy
- 17 In case
- 18 Go...a limb; take a risk
- 19 Fills with wonder
- 20 Very surprising
- 22 Created
- 23 Facial twitches
- 24 Actress Leoni
- 26 Fail to sit up straight
- 29 Magic and Van
- 34 Boyhood
- 35 Amazed
- 36 Sticky stuff
- 37 Learn by...; memorize
- 38 Stolen
- 39 Newspaper nickname
- 40 Utilize
- 41 Uninterested due to monotony
- 42 Waterbirds
- 43 Goes on stage
- 45 Blackboard clearer
- 46 Cereal grain
- 47 Speaker's platform
- 48 Title for former Russian rulers
- 51 Sickiness
- 56 Rat...; daily grind
- 57 Find out
- 58 Have to have
- 60 Change for a five
- 61 T-shirt size
- 62...up; prepare
- 63 Fluid-filled sac
- 64 Carrying a gun
- 65 Bashful



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

10/25/16

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	A	R	S	I	L	K	S	S	W	A	N
O	R	N	O	T	G	A	I	N	H	O	B	O
F	O	N	D	A	L	I	M	A	R	O	U	T
A	S	S	E	S	S	O	R	C	H	E	E	S
T	A	S	S	E	L	O	H	I	O	S	K	I
O	N	E	S	L	E	E	P	S	E	A	M	S
S	T	A	R	Y	A	C	H	T	D	U	A	L
S	I	L	O	S	G	A	S	E	S	S	R	I
W	O	M	E	N	R	E	S	T	E	D		
S	H	U	D	D	E	R	W	R	A	P		
A	E	R	I	A	L	D	I	A	R	I	S	T
B	A	B	E	O	W	E	D	I	D	A	H	O
E	V	A	S	N	O	S	E	N	E	V	E	R
R	E	N	T	S	K	I	N	G	R	E	E	T

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10/25/16

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 41 Squeezing snake | 50 Top cards |
| 42 Gloomy | 52 Close by |
| 44 Woods | 53 Old MacDonald's place |
| 45 Deserved | 54 Pegs for Tiger |
| 47 Funeral song | 55 Slangy affirmative |
| 48 Swamp critter, for short | 59 Parched |
| 49 Kooky | |

DOWN

- 1 Four qts.
- 2 Tavern orders
- 3 Over and done

- 29 Comedian's repertoire
- 30 Ran up a bill
- 31 Villains
- 32 Clamor
- 33 Not smashed
- 35 Summer forecast
- 38 Taco shell
- 39 Playful mockery

Backpage.com operators seek to drop charges over pimping

J. COOPER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The operators of an international website that advertises escort services asked a California judge Wednesday to throw out charges against them of pimping and trafficking prostitutes.

Attorneys for Backpage.com CEO Carl Ferrer and former owners Michael Lacey and James Larkin say the website is protected by the First Amendment and federal law. The men were charged in Sacramento County Superior Court by California Attorney General Kamala Harris. "The AG's complaint should be dismissed immediately," wrote James C. Grant, a Seattle-based attorney representing the three men. "The charges the state asserts amount to a brazen effort to intimidate or shut down an on-line publisher by using all the criminal sanctions at the AG's disposal, despite that she has no authority whatsoever to do so." Backpage advertises a wide range of services, but Harris charged that more than 90 percent of its revenue — amounting to millions of dollars each month — comes from adult escort ads that use coded language and nearly nude photos to offer sex for money. □

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Army and Tufts study how people think, respond under stress

JENNIFER McDERMOTT
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The U.S. Army and Tufts University are working together to learn more about how people think and respond under stress.

Their new cognitive sciences center officially opened Tuesday in Medford, Massachusetts. The research aims to help soldiers and civilian first responders, such as firefighters.

Scientists and engineers are figuring out how to measure, predict and enhance people's cognitive capabilities, so they can better solve problems and remember information in high-stakes environments.

The Center for Applied Brain and Cognitive Sciences was jointly founded by the Army's Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center and Tufts. It's part of the Tufts School of Engineering. The center features an immersive virtual reality lab where an individual's or a team's neurological, psychological and behavioral responses can be monitored.

A team of soldiers can be placed in a large city environment and told to navi-



A soldier wears a virtual reality headset as his neurological, psychological and behavioral responses are monitored during a team drill, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016, at the Center for Applied Brain and Cognitive Sciences in Medford, Mass.

Associated Press

gate their way to a meeting point while researchers track how they communicate with one another and distinguish between friends and foes, for example, said Caroline Mahoney, a cognitive science expert for the Army and co-director of the center. Firefighters and SWAT teams will use the lab too.

Mahoney said the center

is an innovative collaboration because it brings together military and academic researchers from many different disciplines, from engineering and neuroscience to psychology and robotics.

"People are coming to the table with different backgrounds and expertise to drive innovation," she said.

Researchers are working

with paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division to improve their memory and learning under stress. Holly Taylor, of Tufts, is looking at developing wearable devices that help people learn how they're oriented in the world, so they'll navigate better when they take the device off.

Taylor, also a co-director of the center, said some people are over-reliant on GPS devices, which can fail or send them into a lake. Both Taylor and Mahoney said the center's research could influence the design of equipment and technologies for soldiers and first responders.

Taylor sees broad applications since the work could potentially be useful for anyone in a stressful situation. □



A soldier's eyes are tracked on a computer screen as he looks for camouflage on projected photos, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016, at the Center for Applied Brain and Cognitive Sciences in Medford, Mass.

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24/7

Phil Chess, co-founder of blues label Chess Records, dies

JASON KEYSER
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chess Records co-founder Phil Chess, who with brother Leonard helped launch the careers of Chuck Berry, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters and others and amassed a catalog of rock and electric "Chicago" blues that profoundly influenced popular music in the 1950s and beyond, has died. He was 95.

Chess died overnight in Tucson, Arizona, according to his nephew, Craig Glick, who spoke to the Chicago Sun-Times on Wednesday. Leonard, the older brother, died in 1969. Started in Chicago by Leonard and Phil in 1950, Chess Records was home to many of the major blues artists of the following two decades and also took on such musical pioneers as Berry, Etta James and Ike Turner, whose "Rocket 88" is considered one of the earliest rock songs. Chess' rise helped mark the migration North of such Southern-born blacks as Waters and Wolf and the transition of the blues from acoustic to electric, with hard-hitting arrangements that the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton and other white stars openly drew upon.

One of today's greatest bluesmen, Buddy Guy, credited the label with raising Chicago's status to the capital of blues.

"Phil and Leonard Chess were cuttin' the type of music nobody else was paying attention to ... and now you can take a walk down (Chicago's) State Street today and see a portrait of Muddy that's 10 stories tall," Guy, who recorded at Chess, said Wednesday in an emailed statement. "The Chess brothers had a lot to do with that. ... I'll always be grateful for that." Like other businessmen of blues and early rock, the brothers were Jewish kids with an affinity for black music. Phil Chess was born Fiszal Czyz in Motol, Poland, and changed his name to Phil Chess after the family immigrated to the U.S. After Phil served in the Army dur-

ing World War II, the brothers started out with a liquor store, then ran the Macomba Lounge nightclub and music venue, before getting into the music recording business.

"Neither played an instrument. Neither had even a bent for music," author Nadine Cohodas wrote of the Chess brothers in her 2000 book "Spinning Blues into Gold: The Chess Brothers and the Legendary Chess Records." "But they were entrepreneurs, and through the indigenous sounds of America — blues and its progeny, jazz, rock and roll, and soul — they found their fortune."

Chess Records' first release was a Gene Ammons' version of "My Foolish Heart." Then came Waters' "Rollin' Stone" — a song so influential it became the name of the English rock band and the groundbreaking rock magazine.

For the next 19 years, they recorded a staggering lineup of America's greatest blues, R&B and rock 'n' roll musicians out of a two-story building at 2120 S. Michigan Avenue, which still stands.

They recorded everything from minimalist blues and harmony groups to Berry and fellow rocker Bo Diddley. Others who worked at Chess included Willie Dixon, Little Walter and a young session drummer named Maurice White, who later founded Earth, Wind & Fire. Leonard and Phil Chess also founded a handful of sister labels, including Checkers Records, Cadet Records and Marterry.

The impact of Chess blues was especially strong in the United Kingdom, where American recordings were cherished and hard to find in the 1950s and early '60s. Chess albums helped inspire the London blues scene of the 1960s, the proving ground for such future rock superstars as the Stones, Clapton, Rod Stewart and Mick Fleetwood. Chess even played in a role in one of rock's most fateful meetings, when Mick Jagger ran into Keith Richards at the Dartford train station

in 1961. As Richards liked to recall, he noticed that Jagger was carrying albums by Berry and Waters and sensed he had found a musical soul mate.

When the Stones caught on and first visited the U.S. in 1964, they made sure to stop by what Richards considered "hallowed ground."

The band recorded one of its first major hits, "It's All Over Now," at Chess Records and named an instrumental "'2120 South Michigan Avenue" in the label's honor.

Leonard died of a heart attack in 1969. That same year, Chess Records was sold and Phil moved to Arizona, where he worked in radio. In 2008, Shiloh Fernandez played Phil in the



In this undated photo, from left, Leonard Chess, Marshall Chess and Phil Chess stand together for a photo in Chicago. Phil Chess, co-founder of a Chicago record label that amassed perhaps the most influential blues catalog, has died.

Associated Press

movie "Cadillac Records," which also featured Adrien Brody as Leonard and Beyoncé as Etta James. □



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For Suzy Nakamura, 'Dr. Ken' means diversity, 'gwishins'

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

As a child, Suzy Nakamura recalls, she was content to quietly observe and leave the talking to others. These days, the actress and comedian is making noise as a smart, self-possessed sitcom wife on ABC's "Dr. Ken."

It's a career milestone for Nakamura, co-starring on a successful series after be-

ing part of some 20 pilots and a few short-lived series — which, she says cheerfully, brought variety as well as paychecks to her life.

"I haven't gotten bored," she said. "And I'm very proud of that (the tally). It's difficult to get a pilot every year." If she's finally in a durable show, she's glad it's "Dr. Ken." The comedy about an Asian-American family does more than use ethnicity as window-dress-



In this Sept. 12, 2015 file photo, Suzy Nakamura attends the at 2015 PaleyFest Fall TV Previews in Beverly Hills, Calif. Nakamura stars as Allison Park in the ABC comedy series, "Dr. Ken."

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ing, Nakamura said, which she's found to be the norm. Characters she played often were "my face with some white person's story," Nakamura said. "What we need is to have the stories be more diverse."

This Friday's Halloween-themed episode exemplifies just that, she said. "Dr. Ken," starring and produced by physician-turned-actor Ken Jeong ("The Hangover," "Knocked Up"), airs at 8:30 p.m. EDT.

"We're doing a Korean ghost story and (the producers) researched the crap out of it" to make it authentic, she said, down to the look and contents of a Korean peasant hut. "It's not the money or the time given. It's the respect to someone else's story."

In the story, Nakamura's character frets that son Dave (Albert Tsai) is leaving childhood behind because he appears blasé about the holiday that used to scare him. Ken's father, D.K. (Dana Lee) comes to the rescue with a tale about Korean gwishins, often-fearsome spirits that linger in the world, with the ghosts portrayed by the Park family and friends.

Watching the actress hold her own as psychiatrist Allison opposite the high-energy Jeong's Ken, or chatting easily during a coffee

shop interview, it's hard to picture the child who was so soft-spoken in a grade-school production of "H.M.S. Pinafore" that the teacher told her she needed to scream to be heard. Nakamura embraced dancing and then gave comedy a try.

"I wasn't funny, I don't think. But I wanted to be funny," she said, recalling her first attempts. "Lots of stand-ups say they use it (comedy) as armor or defense. I like to call it padding. It was a way to interact with people that wasn't as scary." On an impulse, the Chicago native applied to fabled The Second City improv company and, to her surprise, was accepted to start with its touring company. That meant the end of her studies at Columbia College Chicago and, ultimately, joining a sphere that included Second City performers Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell and Tina Fey.

"It was bananas," Nakamura said, recalling everyone involved as "just normal, kind of weird, doughy losers like me" and the "nicest, funniest people" she'd ever met.

(For the record, the trim actress describes herself as "a little heavier back then.") She says she could have remained happily in Chicago, but the expectation

was that performers would "graduate" from Second City and use it as a calling card for their next career move. Just shy of five years, Nakamura headed for Los Angeles.

In her first pilot, a 1997 non-starter based on the movie "The Player," she was cast in a role written for a 40-year-old white man. "You just have to be the funniest," she explains. With the 1998 series "The Closer," her role as assistant to star Tom Selleck was originally envisioned as an Italian-American woman.

"I thought, 'They just want someone who can go toe-to-toe with Tom Selleck. They don't know who she is or what she looks like,'" Nakamura said. That confidence has helped the actress accumulate more than 100 credits, including recurring roles on "The West Wing" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and guest parts on "Veep," "How I Met Your Mother," "Castle" and "Grey's Anatomy."

Jeong is a big fan of his "Dr. Ken" co-star, who played his spouse in a deleted scene of filmmaker Judd Apatow's "Funny People." "Our chemistry was so good I told her she has to play my wife again in the future. ... She has a unique ability to steal a scene and keep it grounded at the same time," Jeong said. □

The filmmaker behind the 'Hamilton' documentary reveals all

MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — What was to become the Broadway phenomenon "Hamilton" was still raw and unshaped when documentary filmmaker Alex Horwitz turned on his camera three years ago.

Whether Lin-Manuel Miranda's vision of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton would become a concept album or a musical or something else had yet to be determined. Horwitz didn't mind. He just wanted to be there beside Miranda.

"My take was 'I don't care what it ends up being. I just find it so compelling. Let me follow you as you continue to develop it,'" said Horwitz. "It was designed from the beginning to be a companion piece to 'Hamilton,' whatever that became."

Horwitz ended up being, quite literally, in the room when it happened. His documentary "Hamilton's America" debuts Friday on PBS as part of its Great Performances series, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the musical's creation and putting it in historical context.

The documentary maker, who befriended Miranda



In this image released by PBS, from left, Daveed Diggs, Okieriete Onaodowan, Anthony Ramos and Lin-Manuel Miranda perform in the musical, "Hamilton."

in college, didn't want to make a film about the making of the hip-hop-flavored musical. That had already been done with "Chasing Broadway Dreams," about Miranda's previous success with "In the Heights."

"I thought that this could be about history seen through Lin's eyes. That was the conceit of the film from the beginning," said Horwitz. "It's a sort of audio-visual

liner notes that exists for all time now about this amazing, whirlwind experience he had."

Miranda allowed Horwitz extraordinary access, including a sequence in which he was captured composing the song "My Shot" while visiting Aaron Burr's home. Their friendship meant a level of comfort another filmmaker might not have gotten.

"He's much smarter than me," said Miranda, "so he said, 'Can I just start filming you writing your next thing?' in 2012, before we even knew this was a show. And the result is that he's got this great film."

The RadicalMedia documentary combines backstage footage with field trips to places key to "Hamilton," like actor Christopher Jackson, who plays

George Washington, visiting Mount Vernon, and Leslie Odom Jr. who plays Aaron Burr, stopping by the Museum of Finance.

The film is also augmented by interviews with politicians and celebrities including President Barack Obama, former President George W. Bush, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Treasury Secretaries Hank Paulson and Timothy Geithner, Questlove, Jimmy Fallon, John Weidman, Nas and Stephen Sondheim.

"It is quite a motley crew in the best possible way. Where else are you going to get a film that stars Questlove and Hank Paulson?" asked Horwitz. "People returned my calls because of 'Hamilton.'"

Horwitz is the perfect man for the job. His father, director and writer Murray Horwitz, won a Tony Award in 1978 for "Ain't Misbehavin'" and his mother is a classically trained opera singer.

He was a researcher for visionary director Julie Taymor and became an experienced film editor for RadicalMedia, having cut Joe Berlinger's documentary "Whitey," and is a big fan of Ken Burns. □

Associated Press

How does it feel? Nobel judges can't reach Dylan

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Five days after Bob Dylan was named the winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, no one knows how he feels about the prestigious award — not even the Nobel judges.

The Swedish Academy, which bestows the annual honor, says it hasn't been able to reach Dylan since the award was announced last Thursday.

"We haven't established direct contact with Bob Dylan yet, but I have spoken to one of his closest associates," the academy's permanent secretary, Sara Danius, told The Associated Press in an email on Tuesday.

The academy hopes he will accept the invitation

to collect his award at the annual Nobel ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10.

"It would be delightful if Dylan wanted to come to Stockholm in December, but if he doesn't want to, he doesn't want to," Danius said.

She noted that literature laureates have skipped the ceremony before. Elfriede Jelinek stayed home in 2004, citing a social phobia. Harold Pinter and Alice Munro missed the ceremony in 2005 and 2013, respectively, due to health reasons.

Only two people have declined a Nobel Prize in literature. Boris Pasternak did so under pressure from Soviet authorities in 1958 and Jean-Paul Sartre, who declined all official honors, turned it down in 1964.

Dylan, who is currently on tour in the U.S., hasn't mentioned the Nobel Prize during his concerts since the announcement.

As of Tuesday, his official webpage made no mention of the prize except in the "books" section, where a post dated Oct. 17 about his lyrics collection "The Lyrics: 1961-2012" noted in all caps that he was a Nobel Prize winner.

Dylan has accepted numerous awards over the years, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, for which he attended a White House ceremony in 2012. But he also has a history of taking his time acknowledging them. In 2013, he became the first rock star voted into the elite American Academy of Arts and Letters, which made



Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy Sara Danius speaks to media after announcing that Bob Dylan is awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature during a presser at the Old Stockholm Stock Exchange Building in Stockholm, Sweden, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016.

Associated Press

him an honorary member. According to executive director Virginia Dajani, the academy informed Dylan of the decision —

through his manager, Jeff Rosen — in January of that year. Only in May 2013 did Dylan respond, through his manager. □

Beef, cheese, poblano and beer _ an addictive burger emerges



Kitchen Wise

This Aug. 16, 2016 photo shows beer-steamed chili cheeseburgers in Ashby, Mass. This dish is from a recipe by Sara Moulton.

Associated Press

SARA MOULTON Associated Press

The ancestor of this recipe was a beloved burger on the menu of a bar where I was a cook back in my college days.

Working on a flattop grill (the same surface used in diners to cook hash browns), we'd top the burger with a special mix of veggies, top the veggies with a slice of American cheese, douse the whole concoction with beer, then cover it with a dome lid and steam the burger until the cheese melted.

It was addictive — and I don't even like beer.

This recipe repurposes that burger with fresher ingredients and sharp cheddar. I call for ground chuck because it's not too lean. The higher percentage of fat makes the burger juicier and more flavorful. Whenever you add fat to a recipe, it's just going to taste better. The poblanos are roasted for three reasons: to soften the chili's texture, to make it easier to remove the tough peel, and to de-

velop a slight char taste. I recommend roasting them under the broiler, but if you have gas burners, you can place them right on top of a burner and char them over a low flame. If you want to skip this step to save time, you can swap in canned chilies instead.

These burgers need to be cooked on a burner on top of the stove — not on a grill. That's so the juices that accumulate in the bottom of the skillet can be deglazed with beer and turned into a "sauce" (more like drippings) to pour onto the burger at the end. If you're a beer lover, choose a robust brand, which will amp up the burger's flavor.

I can't pretend that this is a low-cal dish, but I do think it's a justifiable (and delicious) end-of-summer indulgence.

CHILE CHEESEBURGERS STEAMED IN BEER

Start to finish: 1 hour (40 active)

Servings: 6

1 large poblano (about 4 ounces) or one 4.5 ounce can chilies

3 tablespoons olive oil, divided plus extra oil for oiling the chili

2 cups sliced onion
salt and black pepper

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1 teaspoon minced garlic

1 1/2 tablespoons minced chipotle in adobo

1 1/2 pounds ground chuck, divided into 6 patties (shape them so that all of them will fit into one large skillet without touching)

6 ounces sliced cheddar cheese

1/2 cup beer

6 toasted buns

Preheat the broiler. Lightly oil the chili on all sides and set it on a shelf about 4 inches from the heat source. Using tongs, turn the poblano often, until the skin is blackened on all sides, about 10 to 15 minutes.

Transfer the chili to a bowl, cover tightly with plastic wrap, and set it aside until it is cool enough to handle. When the chili is cool, peel and seed it and cut it into thin strips; put it back in the bowl.

In a large skillet cook the

onion in 1 tablespoon of the oil, over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the onion is golden brown, about 8 to 10 minutes. Add the cooked onion to the bowl with the chili and add salt and pepper to taste. Wipe out the skillet and set it aside. In a small bowl stir together the mayonnaise, garlic and chipotle.

In the skillet, heat the remaining oil over medium high heat. Season the burgers on both sides with salt and pepper and add them to the skillet. Reduce the heat to medium and cook them for 2 minutes a side. Transfer the burgers to a plate and pour off all but 2 tablespoons of the fat from the pan. Return the burgers to the pan and top each burger with one-sixth of the chili mixture, followed by a slice of cheese.

Pour the beer into the pan on top of the burgers and cover the pan with a lid. Reduce the heat to a simmer and let the burgers steam for 2 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the burgers are cooked

to the desired degree of doneness (you can nick and peek inside one).

While the burgers are cooking, spread chipotle mayonnaise onto the bottom and top of each bun. Transfer the cooked cheeseburgers to the bottom half of the buns. Turn up the heat in the skillet and boil the liquid until it thickened. Spoon some of the reduced cooking liquid over each burger. Top with the remaining bun half.

Nutrition information per serving: 558 calories; 317 calories from fat; 35 g fat (11 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 96 mg cholesterol; 828 mg sodium; 27 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 34 g protein. □

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sara Moulton is host of public television's "Sara's Weeknight Meals." She was executive chef at Gourmet magazine for nearly 25 years and spent a decade hosting several Food Network shows, including "Cooking Live." Her latest cookbook is "Home Cooking 101."